Daily Report

East Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ASEAN Urges EC Not To Impose Conditions on Ties *[Singapore Radio]* 1
Denmark Provides Aid for Mekong Development Project *[Bangkok Radio]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Ministry Acknowledges U.S. Complaint on Apples *[KYODO]* 2
Government Panel Criticizes NAFTA Provisions *[KYODO]* 2
Army Role in Recruiting 'Comfort Women' Admitted *[KYODO]* 2
'Unofficial Translation' of Statement *[KYODO]* 3
Ministry Urges Security Council Seat for Japan *[KYODO]* 4
Two Chinese Seek Compensation for Wartime Labor *[KYODO]* 4
34 Chinese Arrested for Immigration Violations *[KYODO]* 4
42 Billion Yen Loan Offered to Pakistan *[KYODO]* 4
Iranian Gathering Area in Tokyo Park Reopened *[KYODO]* 5
Sony Chief Morita Likely To Be Foreign Minister *[KYODO]* 5
Muto 'Uneasy' About Foreign Policy of New Regime *[KYODO]* 5
9 Senior Foreign Ministry Officials Promoted *[KYODO]* 5
'No Major Change' in Fiscal, Monetary Policies *[KYODO]* 6
Efforts To Form Coalition Cabinet Viewed *[Tokyo TV]* 6
Defense Agency: Outlays Unaffected by Pay Raise *[KYODO]* 7
Ministry To Halt Bureaucrats' Hiring by Industry *[KYODO]* 7
Tagawa-Led Progressive Party Disbands *[KYODO]* 7
Ishikawa Elected Shizuoka Prefecture Governor *[KYODO]* 8
Jan-Jun Current Accounts Surplus Up 19.8 Percent *[KYODO]* 8

North Korea

'Sources': U.S. Plane Conducts 'Espionage' *[KCNA]* 8
Pyongyang Urges South To Ensure Delegates' Safety *[KCNA]* 8
South Urged Not To Block Pannational Congress *[Pyongyang Radio]* 8
ROK President's Remarks to Japanese TV Criticized *[KCNA]* 9
Daily Criticizes Japanese Nuclear Policy *[KCNA]* 10
Thai Premier's Attache Arrives *[KCNA]* 10
New Palestinian Ambassador Arrives 3 Aug *[KCNA]* 11
PRC Provincial Trade Delegation Arrives 3 Aug *[KCNA]* 11
Overseas Koreans Mark 40th War Anniversary *[KCNA]* 11
Meeting Marks Publishing House 30th Anniversary *[KCNA]* 11
KCNA Reviews 4 Aug Pyongyang Press 11

South Korea

IAEA Receives No Reply From DPRK on Inspections *[YONHAP]* 12
DPRK Paper Gives No Inspection 'Promise' *[CHOSON ILBO 4 Aug]* 13
Editorial Urges Nuclear Solution *[THE KOREA HERALD 4 Aug]* 13
Minister: South Would 'Help' With Reactor *[YONHAP]* 14
Seoul Decides Not To Allow Tripartite Meeting *[Seoul Radio]* 14
Seoul Proposes 10 Aug Nuclear Control Meeting *[Seoul Radio]* 14
Provides Proposed Delegate List *[YONHAP]* 14

'Sources' View Possible DPRK Reaction *[YONHAP]* 15
Tokyo Admits Coercing Korean 'Comfort Women' *[YONHAP]* 16
Ministry Official Reacts to Report *[YONHAP]* 16
YONHAP Views Reaction to Admission 16
Seoul, U.S. Sign Security Cooperation Pact 3 Aug *[YONHAP]* 17
Seoul Proposes Restructuring UN Security Council *[YONHAP]* 17
Seoul Allows Three Foreign Security Firms To Open *[YONHAP]* 18
Union Declares Hyundai Pay Offer Approval Invalid *[YONHAP]* 18
Hyundai Wood Company To Lift Lockout 4 Aug *[YONHAP]* 18

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Military Seizes Illegal Thai Saw Mill *[Rangoon Radio]* 20
Bangladesh Returns 516 Refugees 26 Jul *[Rangoon Radio]* 20
More on Rebel Attack in Eastern Village *[Rangoon Radio]* 20
Karen Rebels Rob House, Kill Villager *[Rangoon Radio]* 20

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Najib: Peacekeeping Troops To Depart for Croatia *[BERNAMA]* 20
Mahathir Critical of APEC Summit, STAR TV Purchase *[AFP]* 21
Mandela Ends Two-Day Working Visit 3 Aug *[BERNAMA]* 22
Two Companies Announce New Ventures in PRC *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 28 Jul]* 22
Trade Minister Urges Argentine Partnership *[BERNAMA]* 23
Kampuchea Airlines To Increase Flights 3 Aug *[BERNAMA]* 23
Speaker Rejects Opposition Motion on Deputy Premier *[BERNAMA]* 24
Industrial Corporation Records Lower Pretax Profit *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 31 Jul]* 24

Singapore

Software Piracy Causes Losses in Asia, Europe *[BUSINESS TIMES 2 Aug]* 25
Government Restricts ECONOMIST Circulation *[THE STRAITS TIMES 3 Aug]* 26
Magazine To Publish Government Response *[Singapore Radio]* 26

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attack Train, Kill 10, Rob Passengers *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 26
24-30 Jul Khmer Rouge Attacks Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27

Indonesia

Commander: 'No Problem' Sending Troops to Bosnia *[Jakarta Radio]* 27
Daily Hails ASEAN Move To Link EAEC, APEC *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 30 Jul]* 27
Government Grants Work Release to Jailed Critic *[THE JAKARTA POST 22 Jul]* 28
Minister: ABRI Reviewing Immigration Blacklist *[THE JAKARTA POST 17 Jul]* 28
Editorial Views Reelection of PDI Leader *[THE JAKARTA POST 24 Jul]* 29
Sumatera Satellite Ground Stations Under Construction *[Jakarta Radio]* 29
Three Fretilin Rebels Captured 16 Jul *[THE JAKARTA POST 19 Jul]* 30
Army Chief: Irian Jaya Rebels 'Losing Strength' *[Jakarta Radio]* 30

Laos

Paper Hails 'Success' of PNGC Delegation's Visit *[Vientiane Radio]* 30
Heroin Traffickers Receive Five-Year Sentences *[Vientiane Radio]* 31

Thailand

Prasong Denies UNTAC Allegation on KR Support *[Bangkok Radio]* 31
Government 'Disappointed' With Claim *[Radio VOFA]* 31
PRC's Qiao Shi, Delegation Begin Visit 3 Aug 32
Qiao Shi Speaks on Arrival *[XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO 3 Aug]* 32
Received by Parliament President *[Bangkok Radio]* 32
Official Defends Opening of PLO Office *[BANGKOK POST 4 Aug]* 32
No 'Drastic Actions' Planned Against Burma *[Bangkok Radio]* 33
Canberra To 'Clamp Down Hard' on Child Sex Tours *[Melbourne Radio]* 33
Islamic Leader Condemns Arab Aid to 'Terrorists' *[BANGKOK POST 4 Aug]* 33

Vietnam

Remains of 16 MIA's Returned to U.S. MIA Office *[VNA]* 33
Foreign Minister Predicts 'Bright' Future With ASEAN *[VNA]* 34
Malaysian Navy Cruisers Call at Saigon Port *[VNA]* 34
Diplomatic Ties Set Up With United Arab Emirates *[VNA]* 34
Cooperation Program Signed With Egypt 2 Aug *[VNA]* 34
Nguyen Manh Cam Greets Iranian Foreign Minister *[VNA]* 34
Nguyen Duc Binh Speaks at Cuban Embassy Function *[Hanoi Radio]* 35
Nguyen Duc Binh Receives Departing Czech Charge *[VNA]* 35
Vo Tran Chi Meets Swiss Workers Party Secretary *[SAIGON GIAI PHONG 6 Jul]* 35
Journalists Attend Mass Media Seminar in Bangkok *[VNA]* 35
Joint Circular Issued on Foreigners, AIDS *[VNA]* 35
Buddhist Monk Asked To Stop 'Wrongdoings' *[Hanoi Radio]* 36
Government Directive Regulates Religious Activities *[Hanoi Radio]* 36
Vo Van Kiet Issues Decision on Credit Funds System *[Hanoi Radio]* 36
Vo Tran Chi on Ho Chi Minh City Antipoverty Plan *[VNA]* 37
Ho Chi Minh Court Sentences Drug Traffickers *[Hanoi Radio]* 37
Hanoi Police Seize 16 Kg of Opium, Make Arrests *[Hanoi Radio]* 37
Phan Van Khai Attends Antismuggling Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 37
Tay Ninh Inspection Committee Disciplines Cadres *[Hanoi Radio]* 38
New Economic Zone Resettlement Program Reviewed *[Hanoi Radio]* 38
Afforestation, Allocation of Forests Successful *[VNA]* 38
Nong Duc Manh Attends Construction Firm Function *[Hanoi Radio]* 38
Visits Suburban Gia Lam *[VNA]* 39
Attends Ethnic Education Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 39
Tran Duc Luong Meets With Lam Dong Leaders *[Hanoi Radio]* 39
Pham The Duyet at Hanoi Municipal TU Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 40
Truong My Hoa Attends Meeting of Hai Hung Women *[Hanoi TV]* 40
Publisher Issues VIETNAM TODAY in English *[Hanoi TV]* 40
Aug TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN Reviewed *[Hanoi Radio]* 40

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Minister: Too Early To Speculate on Free Trade Area *[Melbourne International]* 42
Canberra Stepping Up Business Ties With China *[Melbourne International]* 42
Envoy: Russia To Seek 'Prominent' Security Role *[AFP]* 42
Canberra 'Seriously' Concerned About S. African Violence *[Melbourne International]* 42
Ships Leave Sydney for Asian Deployment *[Melbourne International]* 43
Retail Trade Volume Increase More Than Expected *[Melbourne International]* 43

Cook Islands

Agreement Signed With New Zealand on Defense Exercises *[Melbourne International]* 43

Papua New Guinea

Talks Begin on Bougainville-Wide Peace Conference *[Melbourne International]* 43

Vanuatu

Australian Judge Appointed to Senior Court Position *[Melbourne International]* 43

ASEAN Urges EC Not To Impose Conditions on Ties

BK2807143893 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] ASEAN has urged the European Community not to impose conditions such as human rights for greater economic cooperation. A spokesman at the ASEAN-EC dialogue this morning said ASEAN ministers (?had proposed) more dialogue to narrow the differences in the way human rights are interpreted. Both sides agreed such differences should not be allowed to obstruct the promotion of ASEAN-EC cooperation. The ASEAN ministers also called for stronger linkages with the private sector of the EC. They asked the EC to remove existing trade barriers. ASEAN will continue to open its markets to EC products.

Also speaking at the dialogue session was Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo. Mr. Romulo said ASEAN is concerned that the creation of a single European market could result in increased protectionism. He said both sides must lay down policies that can serve as a framework of their relationship. On his part, the president of the Council of EC Ministers said the EC is committed to maintaining the momentum of dialogue and exchanges it now has with ASEAN. Both meetings agreed the relationship has shifted from a donor-recipient one to a more balanced partnership with common goals.

Meanwhile, Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng has rejected greater linkage between the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA, and the single European market. This will be similar to those proposed between AFTA and the North American Free Trade Area. In a meeting with the EC vice president, (Manuel Maru), Mr. Wong expressed concern over the recent statements by some European leaders calling for the blocking of [word indistinct] imports from Asia into Europe. Mr. Wong said Europe should [words indistinct].

Denmark Provides Aid for Mekong Development Project

BK2107075393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Denmark has signed agreements to provide support for development in Cambodia under the Mekong Development Project. The signing ceremony was held on Monday at the Mekong Secretariat between Mr. (Klaus Mortensen), counselor of the Danish Embassy in Bangkok, and Mr. (Secam), officer in charge of the committee's Bangkok-based Mekong Secretariat.

The agreements relate to the project management of the fresh-water [word indistinct] fisheries of Cambodia phase one. The three-year project costing 2.269 U.S. million dollars aims to establish a database on biological and socioeconomic aspects of the fisheries of Cambodia. Human resources development is an important component of this project. The Government of Denmark also provided a technical assistance of 752,000 U.S. dollars for employment of a senior project office for a period of three years.

Japan

Ministry Acknowledges U.S. Complaint on Apples

OW0408114893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—Japan's Agriculture Ministry sent a reply Wednesday to U.S. demands that Tokyo lift its ban on U.S. apple imports, but did not make any pledge to take steps to import the 1994 crop as requested, ministry officials said. The letter under the name of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu, who resigned from the post Wednesday, assured U.S. officials that his successor will deal with the issue.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy and Trade Representative Mickey Kantor sent a third letter of complaint to Tanabu last month on the apple import ban and demanded a reply by the end of this week. Some within the Agriculture Ministry insist there was no need to make a reply because it was undiplomatic to make such a demand at a time when a coalition government is expected to take power from the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party. But ministry sources said Tanabu decided to send a reply because his successor will find it difficult to do so soon.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet will resign en masse on Thursday before the House of Representatives convenes a special session to name Miyazawa's successor the same day.

Japan officially opened its apple market in 1971, but still bans American apples because of worries that the U.S. product is ridden with pests and disease that could infect Japan's orchards.

Government Panel Criticizes NAFTA Provisions

OW0408085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—The proposed North American trade bloc may partly run against the free-trade rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and form effective barriers against goods and services from outside, a Japanese Government study group said Wednesday. The study group of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) also said the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among the United States, Canada and Mexico will have a greater impact on Southeast Asian nations than Japan as it may lead to a shift in foreign investment in cheap labor from Asia to Mexico.

The six-member group, comprising academics, business people, and an official from the governmental Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro), predicted the three-nation customs union will discriminate against other nations in terms of tariffs. Intra-NAFTA tariffs will be eventually brought down to zero, while those for non-member states will remain at current levels, which will be disadvantageous for exporters outside the region, especially in textiles on which Washington maintains hefty tariffs.

The group warned that more damaging than tariff rules for outsiders are the rules of origin adopted by the three countries, which are more stringent than current rules under the U.S.-Canada free trade pact. For instance, the required local component content for cars will be raised to 62.5 percent after NAFTA comes into force, against 50 percent required by the U.S.-Canada accord. This, the group said, can be considered to be against a rule of the world trade body GATT, which bans uneven treatment by a trade bloc of nonmember states.

The group also pointed out that NAFTA's safeguard measures are preferential to contracting countries, which is also at odds with another GATT rule. Safeguards are government actions, like increased tariffs and quantitative curbs, responding to imports which are deemed to harm the importing country's economy or competing domestic industries.

To resolve these problems, it said a quick conclusion of the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of global trade talks is essential since all regional trade pacts are required to be scrutinized by the Geneva-based body.

In an interim report on their more than half-year debate on NAFTA, the group also said Japan will be hurt less by the trade agreement than other Asian nations because American tariffs on Japanese goods are generally at very low levels. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) may face the biggest damage and may be deprived of foreign investments by Mexico. Mexican labor is somewhat more expensive than ASEAN nations—Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei—but cheaper than four prospering economies in Asia—Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan.

To grasp what sort of impact is expected, the group proposed a survey of companies with manufacturing bases in Asia on the possibility of their shifting their factories to Mexico to take advantage of NAFTA.

Army Role in Recruiting 'Comfort Women' Admitted

OW0408081393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Wednesday acknowledged that the defunct Japanese Imperial Army used flattery and coercion to lure young Asian girls, mostly from the Korean peninsula, into prostitution during World War II. In a statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, the government offered apologies to the victims and vowed to continue its investigation into the "comfort women" issue.

"With the participation of the military at that time, this problem deeply injured the honor and dignity of many women," the statement said. "The government takes this opportunity to offer its heartfelt apologies and feelings of remorse to all of the women for the many sufferings and the injuries to the mind and body that cannot be healed from their experiences as comfort women," it said.

The statement comes after 20 months of investigation in which the government gradually moved from a position of denying involvement in the recruiting and management of front-line brothels to saying it wanted to face the issue squarely as a "lesson of history." The statement acknowledged that front-line brothels were established at the request of military authorities and imperial forces took part directly and indirectly in the procurement of women for the sexual service stations. The women, and in many cases young girls, were procured by flattery or coercion and taken against their will where life was "wretched," the government acknowledged.

Wednesday's statement follows consultations with the South Korean Government over the results of its recent interviews with former comfort women in Seoul. Last Friday, the Japanese Government completed a first round of interviews with South Korean women who claim they were forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war.

Initially, Tokyo was expected to complete and hand over its final report on the issue to Seoul by the end of August. The rushed announcement of the report reflects outgoing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's wish to set the stage for a settlement of the issue while he is in office, the sources said.

In its interim report released in July last year, Tokyo acknowledged the involvement of Japan's Imperial Army in recruiting the women but contended there was no evidence they were forced into prostitution. Japan's perceived hesitance to firmly address the issue and compensate victims of the forced prostitution drew fire from groups supporting the women, ultimately leading Tokyo to promise to continue the investigation. Historians estimate that Japan sent between 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula which was then under Japanese colonial rule, to front-line military brothels. Women from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines were also recruited.

Based on the Japanese Government's pledge to take some measures in lieu of paying compensation, the new government to be formed by the seven-party alliance on Thursday or Friday is expected to continue talks with the South Korean Government, well-placed sources said.

'Unofficial Translation' of Statement

OW0408103393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO--The following is an unofficial translation of Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono's statement on the issue of "comfort women."

The Government of Japan has been conducting a study on the issue of wartime "comfort women" since December 1991. I wish to announce the findings as a result of that study.

As a result of the study which indicates that comfort stations were operated in extensive areas for long periods, it is apparent that there existed a great number of comfort women. Comfort stations were operated in response to the request of the military authorities of the day. The then Japanese military was, directly or indirectly, involved in the establishment and management of the comfort stations and the transfer of comfort women. The recruitment of the comfort women was conducted mainly by private recruiters who acted in response to the request of the military. The government study has revealed that in many cases they were recruited against their own will, through coaxing, coercion, etc., and that, at times, administrative/military personnel directly took part in the recruitments. They lived in misery at comfort stations under a coercive atmosphere.

As to the origin of those comfort women who were transferred to the war areas, excluding those from Japan, those from the Korean peninsula accounted for a large part. The Korean peninsula was under Japanese rule in those days, and their recruitment, transfer, control, etc., were conducted generally against their will, through coaxing, coercion, etc.

Undeniably, this was an act, with the involvement of the military authorities of the day, that severely injured the honor and dignity of many women. The Government of Japan would like to take this opportunity once again to extend its sincere apologies and remorse to all those, irrespective of place of origin, who suffered immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women. It is incumbent upon us, the Government of Japan, to continue to consider seriously, while listening to the views of learned circles, how best we can express this sentiment.

We shall face squarely the historical facts as described above instead of evading them, and take them to heart as lessons of history. We hereby reiterate our firm determination never to repeat the same mistake by forever engraving such issues in our memories through the study and teaching of history.

As actions have been brought to court in Japan and interests have been shown in this issue outside Japan, the Government of Japan shall continue to pay full attention to this matter, including private researches related thereto.

Ministry Urges Security Council Seat for Japan

OW0408084993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—Japan is qualified for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council because of its economic ability to help maintain international peace and stability, according to a paper revealed Wednesday by the Foreign Ministry. The document, partially disclosed in early July, was submitted to the UN the same month in line with a General Assembly resolution calling on members to comment on the issue of recomposing the Security Council.

Suggesting a country's ability to wield force need not be an absolute requirement, it says, "issues of peace and stability today must be considered in close relation to economic and other nonmilitary factors." It says consideration should be given to countries "that are clearly capable of assuming responsibility for the implementation of (Council) resolutions, for example, by making financial contributions." The document says permanent membership should also take into consideration "whether the weight that the member state in question carries is global in political, economic, and other terms. Japan is prepared to do all it can to discharge its responsibilities on the Security Council."

The 15-member Council's five permanent members are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—the five major victorious powers of World War II. All of them have veto power over resolutions.

Two Chinese Seek Compensation for Wartime Labor

OW0308150693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hiroshima, Aug. 3 KYODO—Two Chinese survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima petitioned their former Japanese employer Tuesday for compensation for mental and physical hardship endured during their wartime service. Lu Xuewen, 72, who lives in Shandong Province, and Meng Zhaoen, 69, of Hebei Province, said they will authorize their Japanese lawyers to hold negotiations with the company, Nishimatsu Construction Co., on their behalf after they have returned to China. The two men said they will also press Nishimatsu through its branch in Hiroshima to apologize for the forcible drafting of Chinese laborers, and to erect a monument and a hall to commemorate Chinese laborers who died during World War II.

Nishimatsu is one of four major general contractors whose executive officials were arrested last month for allegedly sending bribes to the mayor of Sendai in northern Japan in connection with a municipal construction project. The Chinese men said they were forcibly drafted from China to work as construction workers for a hydroelectric power plant in Kake, Hiroshima Prefecture. They were among more than 10 Chinese workers imprisoned in Hiroshima in July 1945 on suspicion of involvement in the killing of two pro-Japanese Chinese at the construction site, they said.

Lu and Meng said they were in a prison two kilometers from the center of the atomic bomb blast that destroyed most of the city and changed the course of the war. Friday marks the 48th anniversary of the bombing. Records show that of 360 Chinese taken to the construction site, five died in the blast and 24 died of illness or from accidents. Lu said that despite the double hardship of forced labor and the bomb, Nishimatsu Construction has done nothing for the victims in the half-century since the end of the war.

On Friday, Lu and Meng received health cards from the Hiroshima Municipal Government entitling them to free medical treatment in Japan. The cards are for people with health problems related to the bomb. They will attend a memorial service in Kake on Saturday for Chinese drafted for the power plant construction. They will also attend ceremonies on August 6 in Hiroshima marking the anniversary of the bombing. They will be the first Chinese forced laborers who were victims of the bombing to attend the annual ceremonies.

34 Chinese Arrested for Immigration Violations

OW0308150493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Police arrested 34 Chinese on Tuesday as part of a hunt for a group of about 100 Chinese smuggled into Japan through southeastern Hokkaido in June. Police investigators and immigration officials raided seven apartments in Tokyo, apprehending 13 persons without passports and 21 for overstaying visas. All were arrested for alleged violation of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law. Of the 13 without passports, two have acknowledged they were among a group which landed at Akkeshi port, southeastern Hokkaido, around June 16.

42 Billion Yen Loan Offered to Pakistan

OW0308164193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Japan will provide Pakistan with an official loan package of up to 42 billion yen for infrastructure projects, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Documents formalizing the pledge were exchanged between representatives of the two countries earlier in the day in Islamabad. The loan package is the first offered to Pakistan by Japan since January 1992, when it provided 35 billion yen.

Officials denied Japan was holding back loan aid to Pakistan over concern at that country's refusal to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pakistan says it will sign if India does. A U.S. State Department official said last month the two countries are believed to have

nuclear weapons. He said the United States and Japan can play catalytic roles to convince them to roll back their nuclear programs.

The loans carry an interest rate of 2.6 percent per annum and are repayable over 30 years, including a 10-year grace period. The loans will fund a project to rehabilitate old diesel locomotives of the Pakistani National Railways and one to manufacture new trains. It will also help finance a highway construction project, a rural road construction project and an agricultural irrigation project in the Malir River basin in southern Pakistan.

Iranian Gathering Area in Tokyo Park Reopened

OW3007091993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 30 KYODO—The Tokyo Metropolitan Government lifted an almost three-month ban on entering an area in a Tokyo park Friday where Iranians used to gather, Metropolitan Government officials said. The officials said the ban was lifted following the completion of planting of trees in the area. The Tokyo government's project, which started in late April, triggered criticism from civic groups which claimed that it was an attempt to prevent Iranians from entering the area.

Some 3,000 azalea shrubs were planted in the 2,500 square-meter wide area in Yoyogi Park near Harajuku station, central Tokyo. Before the start of the planting, some 4,000 to 5,000 Iranians visited the area on Sundays and national holidays to socialize or exchange job hunting information. The Metropolitan Police Department, however, had asked the metropolitan government to keep the area off-limits even after the planting was finished, saying that a number of people in the area were selling illicit telephone cards and drugs, such as opium, officials said.

The number of foreigners illegally staying in Japan stood at some 292,800 as of last November, according to an official survey.

Sony Chief Morita Likely To Be Foreign Minister

OW0408000293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2339 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 4 KYODO—Morihiro Hosokawa, who is certain to be elected Japan's next prime minister, continued work Tuesday on filling cabinet posts for a prospective coalition government, with Sony Corp. Chairman Akio Morita tipped as foreign minister, political sources said.

The parliamentary election for prime minister is scheduled for Thursday, the opening day of the special Diet session which is mandatory under the constitution following the July 18 election for the House of Representatives. Hosokawa, leader of the Japan New Party [JNP], plans to pick private citizens for three posts—foreign minister, education minister, and justice minister, the sources said. Former National Women's Education Center head Yoko Nuita has the inside track as education minister, they said. Morita and Nuita were not immediately available for comment.

Morita, co-founder of Sony Corp., is also known as the co-author of 1989's "The Japan That Can Say No" with maverick conservative politician Shintaro Ishihara. The controversial book dealt with the state of Japan-U.S. relations. Hosokawa also plans to establish a new cabinet minister post in charge of political reform, the sources said.

On Tuesday, Hosokawa had talks with Ichiro Ozawa, co-leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), and Sakigake head Masayoshi Takemura, they said. He also hopes to conclude formation of a coalition government on Thursday following his election as new prime minister, they added.

The seven parties of the opposition coalition are the SDP [Social Democratic Party] of Japan, Shinseito, Komeito, the JNP, the Democratic Socialist Party, Sakigake (Harbinger), and the United Social Democratic Party.

Muto 'Uneasy' About Foreign Policy of New Regime

OW0308035593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Tuesday he is worried about whether foreign policy will remain intact after a coalition of opposition parties takes power later this week from the Liberal Democratic Party. "Frankly speaking, I really feel slightly uneasy about a temporary cutoff of policy consistency and continuity, wondering whether it will really be a plus at such a crucial period in domestic and external affairs," Muto told reporters.

Muto said Japan faces a packed diplomatic agenda in coming months, including comprehensive dialogue with the United States, global trade talks, reform of the United Nations and a conference on reconstruction aid to Cambodia. He also noted moves for a summit of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation forum, as well as developments relating to the Malaysian-proposed East Asian Economic Caucus. "The situation in the Asia-Pacific region is in a flux so I'm a little bit concerned how things will develop," he said.

9 Senior Foreign Ministry Officials Promoted

OW3007023093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 30 KYODO—The government on Friday announced the appointment of Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito to be vice foreign minister. In a ministerial reshuffle recommended by Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa decided the promotion of eight other senior officials. The promotions take effect Sunday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Saito, 58, replaces Hisashi Owada, the father of Crown Princess Masako. Owada's new post was not disclosed. Masako Owada, formerly a career diplomat at the Foreign Ministry, married Crown Prince Naruhito in early June. Saito, a University of Tokyo graduate, is a former ambassador to Iran. He joined the ministry in 1958.

Hiroshi Fukuda, 57, who is currently Japanese ambassador to Malaysia, will serve as deputy foreign minister, succeeding Saito, ministry officials said. Terusuke Terada, 54, the No. 2 man at the Japanese Embassy in Paris, will become director general for public information and cultural affairs, the officials said. Incumbent press secretary Masamichi Hanabusa is waiting for a new post.

Shunji Yanai, the 56-year-old chief of the International Peace and Cooperation Headquarters in the Prime Minister's Office, will serve as chief of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Policy Bureau, which was recently set up after the United Nations Bureau was scrapped and incorporated into the new bureau, the officials said.

Japanese Ambassador to Nicaragua Kiyohiko Arafune, 54, is reassigned as chief of the ministry's Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau.

Takaya Suto, 53, deputy chief of the Economic Affairs Bureau, becomes chief of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, and Hiroshi Hirabayashi, 53, a minister in the Japanese embassy in Washington, heads the Economic Affairs Bureau.

Haruhiko Shibuya, 58, director general of the United Nations Bureau, is named chief of a newly created International Information Bureau, emerging from the scrapping of the Information Analysis, Research, and Planning Bureau.

'No Major Change' in Fiscal, Monetary Policies

OW0408120593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—There will be no major change in government fiscal and monetary policy under the new cabinet expected to be established on Thursday, a senior official at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Wednesday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited the fact that some members of the coalition parties are proclaiming they will basically pursue the policies of the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and hence no major change will take place. He also said this would be a "logical" course.

With respect to Japan's business conditions, the official said the yen's recent appreciation and the run of bad weather could well have an adverse effect, but it would not be clear until the effects of the 13.2 trillion yen economic stimulation program begin to appear. "We are in no urgent need to take further steps," the official said.

Efforts To Form Coalition Cabinet Viewed

OW0408124893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 4 Aug 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Morihiro Hosokawa, representative of the Japan New Party, who is expected to be elected the next prime minister tomorrow at a special Diet session, is now hastily moving toward coordinating views among the seven political parties on the composition of his cabinet. He met this morning with Masayoshi Takemura, representative of the Sakigake [Harbinger Party], at a Tokyo hotel to discuss the composition of his cabinet.

A special Diet session will be convened tomorrow. Former Chairwoman Takako Doi of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] will be elected speaker of the House of Representatives and Mr. Hosokawa will be elected the 79th prime minister of Japan at the special Diet session.

Mr. Hosokawa will hold individual talks with leaders of the seven political parties to discuss the composition of his cabinet immediately after his election as prime minister at the Diet session. He also intends to complete the work of choosing members of his cabinet tomorrow and formally inaugurate his cabinet the day after tomorrow. Mr. Hosokawa met this morning with Sakigake representative Takemura, who is set to become chief cabinet secretary of the Hosokawa cabinet, at a Tokyo hotel to discuss the composition of his cabinet. In this way, Mr. Hosokawa is now hastily coordinating views among the seven parties on the composition of his cabinet.

Meanwhile, the SDPJ held a meeting of its Central Executive Committee this morning to discuss ways to deal with a coalition government to be formed by the seven political parties with the exception of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. At the meeting, one participant after another asserted that Chairman Yamahana must assume a ministerial post in the coalition government. In response, Chairman Yamahana reportedly said that he would not refuse to assume a ministerial post.

There is growing sentiment within the seven parties that their chairmen should assume posts in the new cabinet. Chairman Yamahana has continued to refuse to assume any post in the new cabinet, citing his responsibility for a crushing defeat of the SDPJ in the latest general elections. At the meeting of the SDPJ Central Executive Committee held this morning, one participant after another asserted that Chairman Yamahana must assume a ministerial post in the coalition government in order to reflect the SDPJ's policies in the coalition government. The SDPJ plans to hold a coalition coordination meeting today to make a final decision on that matter. A senior SDPJ member said that Chairman Yamahana will back down from his refusal and predicted that if Mr. Hosokawa offers him a ministerial post, Yamahana would accept the offer.

Commenting on a decision by the seven political parties to name former SDPJ Chairwoman Doi as a candidate for speaker of the House of Representatives at a news conference this morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono attacked the decision, saying it is hard to understand how they decided to pick her.

[Video shows Kono speaking to members of the press] [Begin Kono recording] There is a longstanding practice that a majority party names a candidate for speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ms. Doi herself has pointed that out. Seven political parties have forced her to run for the speaker of the house despite her knowledge of such a longstanding practice. It is a bit hard for me to understand their actions. [end recording]

Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Minister Tanabu resigned this morning before the Miyazawa cabinet resigns en masse tomorrow. He also quit the LDP. Mr. Tanabu, who has decided to forge an alliance with Mutsuki Kato and former Home Affairs Minister Fukida, who have already defected from the LDP, later withheld his decision to resign and stay in the LDP until the Rice Price Council makes a final decision on producer rice prices.

[Begin Tanabu recording; video shows Tanabu speaking] Political reforms have not been delivered despite a flurry of promises and I have witnessed that. What I have felt is that politicians must be prepared to sacrifice themselves. [end recording]

Defense Agency: Outlays Unaffected by Pay Raise

OW0308045193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Japan's defense outlays in fiscal 1993 will remain within the original budget even if personnel salaries are hiked in line with a recommendation by the National Personnel Authority (NPA), the Defense Agency said Tuesday. Agency officials said if the NPA's recommendation for a 1.92 percent wage hike for government employees is approved, some 24 billion yen will be needed to implement the increase for Defense Agency employees, including Self-Defense Forces officers. But the 24 billion yen cost is still 3 billion yen less than the amount earmarked for wage hikes in the 1993 budget, they said. Japan's defense outlays in fiscal 1993 ending next March 31 total 4.64 trillion yen, accounting for 0.937 percent of the gross national product.

Ministry To Halt Bureaucrats' Hiring by Industry

OW0308104693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 3 KYODO—Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura said Tuesday the ministry will temporarily prohibit retiring senior bureaucrats from getting jobs with large and medium-sized private construction companies. At a press meeting following a cabinet session, Nakamura disclosed the decision, which comes amid sharp public criticism of apparent cozy relations between ministry officials and private construction companies in the wake of construction bribery scandals. The criticism has centered on a practice known as "amakudari" or "descent from heaven," in which retiring senior bureaucrats get highly paid jobs in the private sector and use their influence to help their new employers.

In addition, Nakamura said the ministry will regulate retiring junior officials to do business in public work projects at private construction companies after they leave the ministry. Construction companies cannot receive orders for public works projects from the ministry unless they are invited to bid for the work.

Nakamura said he gravely understands that the public is concerned about retired ministry officials' relations with private construction companies, considering the recent "disgraceful" scandals involving contractors. Each year, an average of about three ministry bureaucrats in positions of section chief or higher have taken jobs in private construction companies after quitting or retiring, ministry officials said. In addition, about 150 junior ministry officials per year get jobs in the 59 construction firms after leaving the ministry, the officials said.

Three local government heads—the mayor of Sendai, the town mayor of Sanwa in Ibaraki Prefecture, and the governor of Ibaraki Prefecture—have been arrested on suspicion of receiving tens of millions of yen in bribes from contractors. The officials were rounded up after prosecutors arrested former ruling party power broker Shin Kanemaru on suspicion of evading more than 1 billion yen in taxes. Kanemaru is said to have been the don of a lobby of lawmakers who had direct influence on the distribution of public works contracts to construction firms.

Tagawa-Led Progressive Party Disbands

OW0208105593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Yokohama, Aug. 2 KYODO—Seiichi Tagawa announced Monday he has disbanded the reform-minded Progressive Party because there is no longer any need for it. Tagawa, 75, told reporters that the party he founded six years ago was disbanded on Sunday. Alluding to the likelihood of political reform in Japan, he said the political situation is moving in the right direction and there is no need for the party to exist.

He founded the party in January 1987 after the New Liberal Club [NLC] disbanded in 1986. He was a leader of the NLC along with Yohei Kono, the new president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Tagawa, Kono and four other LDP Diet members bolted the LDP and formed the NLC in 1976 amid the Lockheed payoff scandal. NLC Diet members, except Tagawa, returned to the LDP. The Progressive Party had only Tagawa as a Diet member.

Tagawa, who had been elected to the House of Representatives 11 times from the No. 2 Constituency in Kanagawa Prefecture, did not run for the lower house in the July 18 general election.

He became home affairs minister in 1983 under the cabinet of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone when the NLC allied itself with the LDP.

Ishikawa Elected Shizuoka Prefecture Governor

OW0108123493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Shizuoka, Aug 1 KYODO—Former Home Affairs Ministry official Yoshinobu Ishikawa on Sunday won the governorship of the central Japanese Prefecture of Shizuoka to succeed Shigeyoshi Saito. Ishikawa, 52, ran as an independent backed by the Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, Komeito, Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), and Democratic Socialist Party, and defeated Hirotsugi Sakata, 54, put up by the Japanese Communist Party. The gubernatorial election, the first regional poll in Japan since the July 18 general election for the House of Representatives, followed the resignation of Saito.

Ishikawa formerly headed the Home Affairs Ministry's Public Service Personnel Department.

Ishikawa garnered 820,355 votes against 133,343 for Sakata, election officials said. The voter turnout was 35.14 percent.

Jan-Jun Current Accounts Surplus Up 19.8 Percent

OW0408080593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0723 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus in the first six months of this year grew 19.8 percent from the same period last year to an unadjusted 67.52 billion dollars due to the strength of the yen against the dollar, the Finance Ministry announced Wednesday. The trade surplus increased 8.8 percent to 68.48 billion dollars as exports rose 7.4 percent to 170.88 billion dollars and imports gained 6.5 percent to 102.47 billion dollars. For the month of June alone, the current account surplus climbed 13.5 percent year on year to 10.71 billion dollars, while the trade surplus rose 2.2 percent to 11.61 billion dollars. Exports moved up 9.4 percent to 29.84 billion dollars in June, as imports expanded 14.6 percent to 18.22 billion dollars.

North Korea

'Sources': U.S. Plane Conducts 'Espionage'

SK0408052793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—The U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane of the U.S. imperialists made a shuttle flight along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] between the east and the west on July 27 to take aerial photographs and electronic espionage of the strategic depth of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

On the 27th and 28th, some ten reconnaissance planes of different type including the RV-1 army tactical reconnaissance plane made flights in the skies above Kanghwa Islet, Pochon, Inje and Kochin along the MDL, conducting espionage on the frontline and coastal areas of our side.

On the 21st and 22nd, the overseas-based RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane flew in the skies above Tokchok Islet, Kapyong and Sokcho for espionage.

U-2, RC-135, RV-1, RC-12, RF-4C and other strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes committed espionage on 180 odd occasions in July .

The espionage is an open challenge to the desire of the Korean people and the world's peaceloving people for the peace and reunification of Korea.

Pyongyang Urges South To Ensure Delegates' Safety

SK0408113393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side's Preparatory Committee of the Fourth Pan-national Rally, in his telephone message to Han Wan-sang, South Korean "Minister of the Unification Board" today, demanded that the South Korean authorities take an early measure for the passage through Panmunjom of the North side's delegates going to Seoul and their personal safety.

"The proposal of the South Korean officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) to have in Seoul on August 6 tripartite working-level talks among delegates of the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas for a successful holding of the Fourth Pan-national Rally, is a patriotic initiative proceeding from the desire to open up a phase of turning point for the reunification of the country," Paek said in the message.

He said three delegates would be sent to Seoul through Panmunjom on August 5 to participate in the tripartite working-level talks.

South Urged Not To Block Pannational Congress

SK0408084993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Tripartite Working-Level Talks Should Be Realized"]

[Text] As has already been reported, relevant South side officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] held a promotion meeting at a Chondoist Hall in Chongno-Ku, Seoul on 30 July in

order to successfully realize the Fourth Pannational Congress. Some 400 figures from all walks of life attended this meeting.

Participants at the promotion meeting elected Rev. Mun Ik-hwan chairman of the Pannational Congress. They also elected 14 figures, including Kang Hui-nam, preparatory members for holding the Pannational Congress.

At the promotion meeting, relevant South side officials of Pomminnyon proposed that tripartite working-level talks be held in Seoul on 6 August with representatives from the North, the South, and overseas in order to prepare for the Fourth Pomminnyon Congress which is to be held in Seoul from 13 to 15 August. This is aimed at making the Fourth Pannational Congress a meaningful, grand, joint national festival for reunification. Thus, this constitutes a patriotic and nation-loving measure that will be a turning point for national unity and reunification of the fatherland.

Held on 15 August every year since the first congress in 1990, everyone knows that the Pannational Congress is the festival for reunification first proposed by South Korea's national and democratic reunification movement organizations and then arranged by reunification movement organizations of the North and overseas in response to this. Therefore, this is the most authoritative plaza for dialogue on reunification, in which a broad range of fellow countrymen of all strata from home and abroad who want the reunification of the country and nation participate.

Three Pannational Congresses have been held up to now. These congresses, however, failed to be extensive ones for national unity with representatives from the North, the South, and overseas in attendance because of the obstructive maneuvers by divisionist forces from home and abroad.

Let us take the first Pannational Congress held in 1990 as an example. The South Korean ruling circles with traitor No Tae-u as boss employed all possible obstructive maneuvers and tactics to frustrate the Pannational Congress from the very first day of promotion by Pomminnyon. The rascals blocked South Korean representatives from attending the first, second, and third preliminary contacts aimed at preparing for the Pannational Congress. They also stopped the representatives from participating in the Pannational Congress. Following these measures, they barred even the second and third congresses from being held in Seoul. Thus, these congresses had to be held in Pyongyang and overseas. The rascals brutishly deterred even the Pannational Congresses, which had been held in Seoul with the presence of South Korean people from all walks of life, from being held.

The Pannational Congress was held amid fierce struggle between reunification forces who long for the country's reunification, and divisionist forces who went amok in maneuvering to divide Korea into two. This struggle led all the people of the North, the South, and overseas to firmer unity among them under the banner of independent, peaceful reunification.

Today's situation in which the Cold War has ended in the world and a new government has been inaugurated in South Korea demands that our nation hold the Fourth Pannational Congress more significantly than those held in the past and that our nation hold the congress as a nation's joint festival for reunification, which will contribute more than ever to national unity and the realization of the country's cause for reunification.

Prompted by this, we called a meeting of chairmen of the Central Committee of the North side's headquarters and expressed our full support for the South side's proposal. We then decided to send three representatives to the tripartite working-level talks of Pomminnyon's relevant officials from the North, the South, and overseas which is to be held in Seoul on 6 August. The South Korean authorities should not interrupt our side's representatives from heading for Seoul and urgently take proper actions to guarantee their personal safety.

While professing themselves to be a government of civilian democracy, South Korean authorities are by no means allowed to have reason or excuse to block the pannational festival for the country's peace and reunification with gun and sword, as military fascist dictators of the sixth republic did. If South Korean authorities are a true civilian democracy, they should allow our side's representatives who will attend the tripartite working-level talks, to head south first and guarantee their personal safety.

If the South Korean authorities prevent the Fourth Pannational Congress from being held in Seoul and block our representatives from heading for the South, they will more clearly reveal that their politics of civilian democracy of which they boisterously boast are complete lies and that they are fascist tyrants, just like the dictators of the sixth republic.

The South Korean authorities' position on the Fourth Pannational Congress will serve as a touchstone indicating whether they are a government of civilian democracy or a dictatorial one.

All the people of the North, the South, and overseas are keenly watching the South side's attitude.

ROK President's Remarks to Japanese TV Criticized

SK0408053993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 4 Aug 93

["Outspoken Anti-Dialogue Stance"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—The chief executive of South Korea in a special interview with Japan's NHK recently blared that they "would not make haste

with North-South summit" because "it is evident that the North is developing nuclear weapons," a Seoul-based radio report said.

His imprudent remarks tell that his group has no interest in dialogue with the North and is still unwilling to accept with sincerity its proposal for an exchange of special envoys to arrange summit talks.

His words fully reveal his insidious attempt to create artificial difficulties in the way of the North-South dialogue now on the order of the day. It shows that he is an anti-reunification element little different from the preceding dictators.

Shortly after he took office he said it was desirable that a summit between the North and the South was held any time from the "viewpoint of the same nation." Now, however he has reversed his stand and is playing a double game, saying he "would not make haste with North-South summit."

The reason is crystal clear. A series of agreements reached at the DPRK-U.S. talks that might lead to a fundamental solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula threw them into such utter discomfiture that thes are now behaving like a headless chicken, at a loss what to do [words indistinct] South Korean authorities are trying to have international pressure and "sanctions" imposed on the DPRK by continuously raising a hue and cry over the North's fictitious "nuclear problem", regardless of the progress of the DPRK-U.S. talks. But this is an absolutely foolish attempt.

They must clearly realize that this will lead them to self-destruction and awake from their anachronistic daydream and sincerely approach the dialogue with the DPRK.

Daily Criticizes Japanese Nuclear Policy

SK0408111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 4 Aug 93

["Double-dealing Japan's Nuclear Policy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—To step up nuclear armament in real earnest while pretending to take exception to nuclear weapons is the essunce of Japan's nuclear policy, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today, which reads in part:

The hypocritical nuclear policy of the double-faced Japanese Government is graphically manifested in its attitude toward the "three non-nuclear principles".

The Japanese Government has set the "three non-nuclear principles"—ban on the manufacture, possession and introduction of nuclear weapons—as an important sign that Japan is a "peaceful state". If the "three non-nuclear principles" are to be legally binding principles, they must be fixed in a law. The Japanese Government, however, is dead set against this, ignoring the people's demand.

It is, in actuality, trying to gain the right to have and use nuclear weapons.

Japan intends to secure 400 tons of plutonium in the three decades to come.

In fact, she has come to a phase where she can become a nuclear power in the shortest possible period once she is determined to. Japan set about nuclear development from the mid-1950s and established a nuclear weapon system capable of launching nuclear warheads during the period of the third defence program (1967-1971).

What the Japanese authorities needed, having completed preparations to become a nuclear power, was to find an excuse for justifying their nuclear armament.

An important aim Japan has sought in vociferously spreading rumors about the DPRK's fictitious "threat of nuclear development" is to realize her nuclear armament at any cost even by creating a pretext in a far-fetched manner. The Japanese authorities were displeased with the DPRK-U.S. joint statement published in New York recently, and also expressed a negative attitude toward the results of the DPRK-U.S. talks in Geneva.

This testifies to the fact that the Japanese authorities do not want Korea's "nuclear problem" to be solved smoothly but are intending to create difficulties in its way and make matters worse and thereby use it for their sinister purposes.

The real intention of the Japanese Government is to make Japan a nuclear power, a political power at any cost so as to expand her political and military influence in the international arena and realize her once bankrupt dominationist design by force.

It will mean self-destruction for Japan, the only nuclear victim, to take the road toward a nuclear power.

Thai Premier's Attache Arrives

SK0308233593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 3 (KCNA)—Minister attached to the Prime Minister of Thailand Chinnavut Sunthonsima and his party arrived here Tuesday.

They were met at the airport by Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and other officials concerned.

A reception took place for the Thai guests in the evening.

New Palestinian Ambassador Arrives 3 Aug

SK0408060893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—Shahir Mohammed [name as received], newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the state of Palestine to Korea, arrived here Tuesday by air.

PRC Provincial Trade Delegation Arrives 3 Aug

SK0308152293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 3 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Jilin Yuwen Economic and Trade Development Corporation of China headed by General Manager Xu Liguang, a visiting group of students of the Jilin Yuwen Middle School, China, headed by Song Bin, secretary of the Committee of the School of the Communist Youth League, and a delegation of the S.B.B. Company Ltd., Japan, headed by President Yoshiyuki Oe arrived here today.

Overseas Koreans Mark 40th War Anniversary

SK0408112393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—Koreans overseas significantly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Korean people's victory in the fatherland liberation war.

The headquarters of Koreans in China of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) held a celebration meeting, a party, a photo and book exhibition, a film show and a joint meeting with war veterans on July 27.

A report was delivered and a congratulatory speech made by Om Chong-kuk, deputy governor of the Yanbian Korean autonomous prefecture, at the meeting. Letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted there.

At the joint meeting held in a park, Yanji City, many war veterans spoke of the great fatherland liberation war in which they devotedly fought for the country and the leader and expressed their determination to fully discharge their responsibility as members of the Korean nation for the country's reunification.

A joint meeting of Koreans was held in Kazakhstan on July 21. The participants vowed to widely propagandize the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song and invigorate the movement for implementing it for the promotion of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

A celebration meeting was held in Toronto on July 26 by the Canada regional headquarters of Pomminnyon, the Canada headquarters of the Association for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification of the Country and the Society of Women in Canada for National Reunification.

Meeting Marks Publishing House 30th Anniversary

SK0408053393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Tuesday to mark the 30th founding anniversary of the Foreign Languages Books Publishing House (July 1963).

At the meeting a congratulatory message of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea to the journalists, editors and employees of the publishing house was read out by Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea.

The message said that the officials and editors of the publishing house have helped toward the education of posterity and the training of national cadres by editing and publishing many textbooks of foreign languages, dictionaries and books of reference and made a great contribution to accelerating the chuche- orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy and developing science and technique of the country by translating and publishing many scientific and technical books.

Song Ki-hyon, director of the publishing house, said in his report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has successfully applied the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche-based idea on the press and led the publishing house to a new turn in the press activity, so that the publishing house has been developed into a competent publishing centre for textbooks of foreign languages, books of reference, dictionaries and latest scientific and technological books.

A letter of pledge to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

KCNA Reviews 4 Aug Pyongyang Press

SK0408054793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 4 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Blaise Compaore, president, head of state and chairman of the Council of Ministers of Burkina Faso, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the revolution in the country.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN are messages of greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general

secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the great fatherland liberation war.

Immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song have been disseminated and studied abroad, says the daily.

Appearing in the daily is a report that President Kim Il-song received a message and letters of thanks from foreign delegations leaving Korea after participating in the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

Given in the press is an account of an employees meeting of the Korean Revolution Museum held to carry out the on-the-spot teachings given by President Kim Il-song on July 29, 1993.

Papers report that a meeting was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the on-the-spot guidance of President Kim Il-song to the Chollima Steel Complex and a continuous roughing mill of the complex was put into operation with a due ceremony.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an article on the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il to the construction of the monument to the victory in the fatherland liberation war which was unveiled on July 26.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent by the general secretary of the C.C., the Jordanian Communist Party on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war and on the month of international solidarity with the Korean people.

Given in the daily is an account of a meeting held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the foreign languages books publishing house.

The daily carries joint statements which were adopted between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Federal Communist Party of Russia [FCPR] and between the WPK and the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal [DRPP].

Under the title "Veterans' Life Shines in Bosom of Great Love" the daily edits an account of emotional reunions of participants in the national conference of war veterans held in Pyongyang some time ago with their old comrades-in-arms.

Papers introduce the gist of "They defended the country and safeguarded socialism", an article on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the war which was carried by the Russian paper PATRIOT No. 29-30.

The chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the pan-national rally informed the South side of the list of our side's delegates who will participate in the tripartite working-level talks of officials concerning Pomminnyon [National Alliance for the Country's Reunification] from the North, the South and abroad, reports the press.

The U.S. imperialists committed aerial espionages against the northern half of Korea, says the press.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that a religious organisation protested against the authorities' objection to the pan-national rally in Seoul.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article branding the "December 12 Army Purge Coup" in South Korea in 1979 as a coup aimed to seize the "power".

Papers report that a theoretical symposium of the whole army was held in Beijing to mark the centenary of the birth of Mao Zedong, the Filipino president demanded reduction of debts and the Lebanese prime minister brought to light the aggression aim of Israel.

Papers observe the independence day of Burkina Faso.

"Double-dealing nuclear policy of Japan" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

South Korea

IAEA Receives No Reply From DPRK on Inspections

SK0308122693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT / 3 Aug 93

[Text] Paris, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—An ad hoc inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flew into Pyongyang on Tuesday afternoon (local time) and would stay there for one week performing duties related to nuclear inspection. David Kyd, spokesman for the Vienna-based IAEA, said the three-member IAEA team received visas from the North Korean Embassy in Beijing around 10 A.M. Tuesday.

"The IAEA inspectors must have arrived in Pyongyang by now as the plane carrying them left Beijing at 3 P.M.," Kyd said. He said the inspectors will reach the nuclear center at Yongbyon on Wednesday to begin activities for nuclear inspection. "They will stay there for one week checking various nuclear-inspecting tools and equipment installed previously," he said. Kyd said the inspectors will leave Pyongyang on Aug. 10.

Regarding the issue of special inspection of two undeclared facilities at the Yongbyon center, Kyd said, "We have not received any reply from North Korea as to when talks can resume on special inspections." The IAEA has regularly been contacting the North Korean Embassy in Vienna over the issue, the spokesman added.

DPRK Paper Gives No Inspection 'Promise'

SK0408013393 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Aug 8 93 p 1

[By correspondent Pak Tu-sik]

[Text] North Korea asserted in its 2 August NODONG SINMUN commentary that at the 2d-stage high-level talks with the United States in Geneva last month, it was decided to start negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in order "to discuss correcting the IAEA's unfairness. Discussion would not include the special inspection issue."

Such an assertion made by the North Korean side runs completely counter to the expectations of the United States and the ROK that have said North Korea promised at the talks to start negotiations with the IAEA concerning the special inspection issue. It is therefore very significant.

The commentary asserted: The IAEA has disregarded its fairness which is vital to its activities. On the other hand, it has unjustly forced us to accept the special inspection while following great powers. The progress in negotiations between the DPRK and the IAEA is dependent on whether the IAEA is willing to admit to its unfairness and is willing to correct it.

Concerning the North Korean side's attitude, our government officials concerned said on 3 August: North Korea has asserted on many occasions that IAEA fairness must be guaranteed prior to nuclear inspections, but this is the first time that it has asserted that it did not promise at the Geneva talks to start negotiations on discussing the special inspection with the IAEA.

They said: There is no reason to accept the NODONG SINMUN commentary as an official opinion of North Korean authorities, but it seems that North Korea intends to gain time on a long-term basis under the pretext of the IAEA fairness issue even if it starts negotiations with the IAEA, while suspending discussion of special inspection.

The commentary also said that North Korea has "proven" that it has no intention to develop nuclear weapons by proposing the introduction of light-water reactors at the Geneva talks, and demanded that the United States therefore must not propose preconditions, such as the precondition that progress must be made in negotiations between North Korea and the IAEA, but it must provide the technology for light-water reactors.

Editorial Urges Nuclear Solution

SK0408005393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "IAEA team to N. Korea"]

[Text] The widespread concern over North Korea's continued attempts to develop its nuclear capability for dubious purposes will remain as long as Pyongyang fails to clear the air on the sensitive question of nuclear arms. Pyongyang has agreed, after much delaying and haggling, to submitting its nuclear facilities to the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection, but the world, wary of the secretive and hardline North Korea, is not ready to settle for that and with good reason.

A group of IAEA officials was expected to be in Pyongyang yesterday for an ad hoc inspection of North Korean facilities, but the inspection is aimed more at maintaining the monitoring instruments installed there than at checking the North Korean nuclear program in general. Therefore, Pyongyang is not likely to allow the IAEA inspectors to poke into the cores of the nuclear facilities that have aroused worldwide suspicion.

It is not yet clear how far North Korea would go in allowing the IAEA inspectors to do their probing. North Korea has not made clear its position on the IAEA demand that it receive "special inspections" on its two suspected facilities at the Yongbyon complex north of Pyongyang. Only honest clarification on this centerpiece of the nuclear dispute and sincere fulfillment of its treaty obligations by allowing the IAEA inspection to proceed smoothly could dispel suspicion and misgivings on the intentions and capability of North Korea with regard to that vital yet dangerous energy of the atom. North Koreans have been saying all along that they have nothing to hide from the outside world—no ulterior motives, nor shady facilities. Then, they have only to let the international community see for itself.

Recently, North Korea has been quite aggressive in its bid to appease the United States and has held a few rounds of high-level talks with American officials. If North Korea truly intends to open its reclusive society to the outside world including the United States, it must prove its sincerity by acceding to the worldwide demand to submit all its nuclear sites to international inspection while conducting mutual South-North inspections faithfully as pledged in the joint declaration on a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. There is no reason for Pyongyang to hinder outside inspections if, as North Korean leaders have reiterated, it has no intention or ability to produce nuclear bombs.

North Korean leaders are urged to keep in mind that whether they succeed in improving relations with the United States or Japan hinges primarily on progress in the dialogue with Seoul. They can hardly expect improvement or normalization of relations with the two countries as long as they remain reluctant in showing a sincere attitude toward achieving any significant step forward in inter-Korea negotiations.

It has been the standing policy of the Seoul government to make any step forward in the current search for reconciliation and exchange conditional upon the resolution of the controversy over the suspicious nuclear intentions of Pyongyang. North Korea will thus gain much more by resolving the long-standing nuclear issue

than fumbling along with unsolved loose bits of the issue. It ought to make crystal-clear exactly what its nuclear potential and facilities are. Only a reasonable and logical solution to the nuclear issue, and then inter-Korean relations, will prove conducive to Pyongyang's current diplomatic effort.

Minister: South Would 'Help' With Reactor

SK0408091193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0855 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea would help North Korea acquire light water-type nuclear reactors only after the North Korean nuclear issue was resolved, Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said Wednesday. North Korea should not make the proposed introduction of light water reactors a condition for accepting the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) special inspection of its nuclear facilities, Han said.

Han, who is also deputy prime minister, reiterated the South Korean Government's position on the nuclear issue at a press conference for foreign correspondents in Seoul. In order to realize the mutual and simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities between South and North Korea, the resumption of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) talks was essential, Han said.

Han's comment came hours after Prime Minister Hwang In-song proposed to North Korea the resumption of the JNCC meetings, which were suspended by North Korea on Jan. 25 after 22 rounds of fruitless talks since the commission was formed on March 14 last year. Han said he expected that the North Korean nuclear problem would be solved before the IAEA holds its board of governors meeting in September, hinting that the IAEA meeting could be a watershed for the nuclear issue.

Commenting on other topics, Han said that the South Korean Government was already preparing measures for various situations arising from the sudden death of North Korean President Kim Il-song. The Seoul government could not rule out the possibility of revising its unification policy if unforeseen developments warranted it, he said.

With regard to the current visit to North Korea by three IAEA experts, Han said he understood that the IAEA had planned to send six officials, but North Korea allowed only three. He said he hoped that the current visit could lead to special inspection.

Seoul Decides Not To Allow Tripartite Meeting

SK0408070693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0630 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The government has decided not to allow the tripartite working-level meeting attended by representatives of South Korea, North Korea, and abroad. Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, head of the South side's headquarters of the Pannational Rally Congress, is pushing ahead with this meeting.

Unification Board Vice Minister Song Yong-tae said today that there will be no change in the government policy of prohibiting the pannational rally from being held, and added: According to this policy, the government will refuse the South side headquarter's application to hold the pannational rally congress for making contact with North Korean citizens.

Seoul Proposes 10 Aug Nuclear Control Meeting

SK0408024993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The government today proposed to the North Korean side that the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee which has been suspended since last January, reopen operations to discuss the issue of North-South mutual nuclear inspections. In the name of Prime Minister Hwang In-song, the government sent a telephone message this morning to Kang Song-san, premier of the North Korean Administration Council, and proposed that the meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee be held at Tongilgak in the North side area of Panmunjom at 1000 [0100 GMT] on the morning of 10 August.

In the telephone message, Prime Minister Hwang In-song stressed that normalization of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee will enable the early provision of regulations on nuclear inspection in accordance with the joint denuclearization declaration, the implementation of mutual nuclear inspections based on this, and the compliance of both the North and the South with the aspirations of all fellow countrymen. In the meantime, the government also informed the North side of our side's seven members to the nuclear control committee, including Yi Song-kwon, the committee chairman.

Provides Proposed Delegate List

SK0408034193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0313 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hwang In-song proposed a meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission at the truce village of Panmunjom on Aug. 10 in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart Wednesday. Hwang said it was fortunate that North Korea, at its high-level meeting with the United States, had reconfirmed the importance of implementing the declaration of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and expressed its willingness to resume South-North dialogue.

The two governments should work together to fulfill the hopes and desires of the entire people by normalizing the work of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] and carry out mutual inspections of nuclear facilities, Hwang said. "Now is the time for the two Koreas to resolve the nuclear issue wisely in order to find a breakthrough for improvement in inter-Korean relations so that the Korean people can show their wisdom and

maturity to the world," Hwang said in his message, addressed to North Korean Premier Kang song-san.

Hwang also sent a list of seven South Korean representatives to the proposed meeting. They are JNCC Chairman Yi Sung-kon, an Ambassador-at-large at the Foreign Ministry, Vice Chairman Chong Se-hyon, a presidential secretary, Chang Chae-yong, director general of the American affairs bureau of the Foreign Ministry, Im Tae-sun, an adviser at the National Unification Board, Brig. Gen. Kim Sang-yol, Yi Sung-ku, a councilor at the Science and Technology Ministry, and Chong Ui-pu, a councilor at the prime minister's office.

Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-tae said that the South Korean government gave top priority to the resolution of the nuclear issue. Therefore, the natural order of things was to resume the JNCC's meetings to work out procedures for mutual inspection of nuclear facilities, Song said. The JNCC, formed on March 14 last year, had met 22 times without reaching any agreement before it suspended its talks Jan. 25.

It was unclear whether North Korea would accept Wednesday's proposal by prime minister Hwang since it had been insisting on exchanging special envoys to discuss overall pending issues, including the nuclear question. "It is difficult to predict North Korea's reaction to our proposal," Song said. "North Korea should accept our proposal if it wants to carry out the inter-Korean accords."

'Sources' View Possible DPRK Reaction

SK0408080393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hwang In-song's proposal to North Korea that the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) should resume its meetings is a reflection of South Korea's unflagging efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear question on the inter-Korean level. It is an expression, in other words, of South Korean desire not to leave the nuclear issue to the world community or to North Korea alone but to actively help solve it as a problem for the entire Korean people. It also is aimed at rendering Seoul's support for North Korea's high-level talks with the United States on the nuclear issue as well as Pyongyang's hopes to improve relations with Washington.

In a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Kang Song-san, Hwang stressed the South Korean position on the matter. "Now is the time for the two sides to find a breakthrough for the improvement of inter-Korean relations by resolving the nuclear issue wisely...," he said.

In taking an initiative to propose the resumption of the JNCC meetings, various ministries in the Seoul government were by no means unanimous. There was a considerable body of opinion that questioned the wisdom of making the proposal after North Korea not only unilaterally declared a proposal for exchanges of special envoys a failure June 26, but also put all the blame on South Korea.

"Does South Korea have to make yet another proposal for dialogue in its frustrating wake?" many opponents asked. They insisted that the government should take a wait-and-see attitude for a while since North Korea had expressed its intention to resume inter-Korean dialogue during its talks with the United States in Geneva last month.

Despite the differences in opinion, however, the main reason for South Korea to go ahead and make the proposal Wednesday was because determination was strong on the part of the Seoul government to help North Korea "save face" and take an initiative to resolve the nuclear issue, sources say. It isn't immediately clear whether Pyongyang would respond to the South Korean proposal positively but many government analysts say Pyongyang has no other choice but to talk to the South if it wants to carry its current negotiations with the United States to fruition.

Moreover, North Korea will face United Nations Security Council sanctions unless it satisfies the international community with its nuclear problem by mid-September. Under the circumstances, the analysts say, it hasn't got much choice but to resume talks with the South. Nevertheless, South Korea had to make a concession once again and make the proposal because North Korea was not in a position to take the initiative since it had unilaterally suspended inter-Korean talks.

Another positive factor for the Seoul government to make the proposal was North Korea's acceptance of a visit by three experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to look around its nuclear facilities Tuesday. Most observers believe, however, chances are slim for Pyongyang to accept the South Korean proposal outright.

In his message, Prime Minister Hwang said the resumption of talks of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission would be the natural order of things for the two sides. But this position is far from that of North Korea, which has been insisting on exchanging special envoys to arrange a summit meeting between Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Kim Il-song where overall pending inter-Korean issues, including the nuclear question, can be discussed and resolved.

North Korea, through its Foreign Ministry spokesman and a commentary in the NODONG SINMUN, has said that if a summit is realized "all problems could be resolved." As a result, there is a strong possibility that North Korea would again offer a counterproposal, calling for exchanges of special envoys to arrange a summit. But if the South agrees to hold the summit, North Korea would make Kim Il-song's so-called 10 principles and four demands the preconditions for such a meeting.

Besides, it would take interminable discussions and negotiations if the two Koreas are to set up a summit, through working level contacts, exchanges of special envoys, preparatory talks and so on. In short, there is a possibility that North Korea could be proposing a summit in order to "buy time" and avoid international pressure.

In addition, if South Korea accepts a North Korean proposal for a summit, the focus of inter-Korean dialogue will veer away from the nuclear question to political issues with the result that the talks, like those at Panmunjom for the last 40 years, will be endless. In spite of all those possible elements, however, the Seoul government is expected to try its best to realize the resumption of dialogue, sources say. But they also counsel that the South Koreans shouldn't hold their breath for an immediate and positive development coming out of Wednesday's proposal.

Tokyo Admits Coercing Korean 'Comfort Women'

SK0408080993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government issued a report on Wednesday afternoon admitting for the first time that the Japanese Army used coercion to mobilize Korean women as sex slaves for its soldiers during World War II. The report said that Tokyo had ascertained that Korean women were taken as comfort women against their will, as a whole, by the Japanese Army in a coercive atmosphere.

Local government sources said this meant that the Japanese Government had virtually admitted that the Army was involved in the coercive mobilization of comfort women. The report is based on a series of investigations and interviews by Japanese Government officials with 16 former Korean comfort women in Seoul last month.

The Japanese Government appears to be reluctant to admit that women were forced into sexual slavery in a positive and direct expression in the report, but it admitted there was coercion for the first time. The report contained an apology by the Japanese Government to Korea over the matter. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet wants to close the book on this knotty issue with South Korea before it resigns en masse on Thursday.

Ministry Official Reacts to Report

SK0408093093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0913 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea pegged down Wednesday it is closing the book on comfort women as a diplomatic issue with Japan, ending a row that lasted for over a year and a half. "Japan's report significantly reflect points that we regard as highly important," Yu Pyong-u, director-general of Asian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, said after the announcement in Tokyo. "We will not raise the matter as a diplomatic issue as long as Tokyo continues its efforts at apology to the victims and at learning from the past not to repeat the same," said Yu.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono revealed the second report on comfort women, a name for those enslaved for sex during World War II for Japanese soldiers, in a follow-up to the first report in July last year. He admitted for the first time in Wednesday's report that the comfort women were "as a whole" recruited and confined against their will, Tokyo's way of saying that it did use force on the women. Kono said the Tokyo government will find ways to show in action its apology and regrets and to take the entire incident as a lesson from history.

Officials here said they can only wait to see what the actions will be, but the measures are certain to include Japanese textbook revisions admitting the former Imperial Army's involvement and use of force in running the frontline brothels of comfort women. "We evaluate positively Japan's efforts. We decided to accept them in good faith," said Yu.

YONHAP Views Reaction to Admission

SK0408084093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 4 Aug 93

[YONHAP news analysis]

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—Japan gave South Korea just enough justification to plead with its people to close the book on comfort women by admitting Wednesday, in a most roundabout way, that it did use coercion to enslave the women in battlefront brothels during World War II. The government's reaction was appreciation that Tokyo had explained, admitted and apologized for forcing between 100,000 and 200,000 Korean women to serve as sex slaves for its soldiers.

It is apparent that the government wants to put the matter behind with Wednesday's announcement, but officials recognize remaining problems and private groups are not expected to be satisfied with Tokyo's statement. When Japan plundered Korea's living rooms to fill its frontline brothels, the country was a Japanese colony.

The matter began to emerge as a diplomatic issue in November 1991, when government spokesman Koichi Kato ired Seoul by saying that Tokyo had found no evidence that its imperial government was involved in mobilizing and operating the brothels. The following July, Tokyo recanted and admitted government involvement.

This time, after much shoving from Seoul, Tokyo said the women "as a whole" were rounded up and kept at the brothels "against their will" through lies and coercion. This admission of coercion meets one of the three

demands that South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu set down in June when he met with his Japanese counterpart, Kabun Muto.

The other two were that Japan learn a lesson from history to make sure this kind of atrocity is never repeated, and that it continue to seek facts on comfort women. Japan met these two demands as well. The announcement says Japan "will not flee" from the historical truth but confront it as a lesson from history and "remember it long."

It vowed to sincerely seek methods to show in action its apology and regrets to the victims and to continue to hold an interest in the issue. It is no secret that Seoul officials want to close the book on the case now that Japan has admitted using force. "Closing the book does not mean that historians and civilian organizations cannot address the matter any more. It just means South Korea and Japan will not include it on their list of pending diplomatic issues," says Yu Pyong-u, director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry.

Behind Seoul's haste is that the Japanese Government that takes the helm Thursday is not from the generation of politicians who patiently consulted with South Korea on the issues of the past. Questions were seriously raised whether the new government will do much better than the one headed by outgoing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in resolving the situation. The predominant answer was "no."

But as officials well know, the situation is not this simple and the particular timing certainly doesn't help. The Seoul government's letting go of the issue will certainly work against suits for compensation pending in Japanese courts. And it just happens that Seoul will end up helping Japan free itself of the 48-year-old shackle of history exactly when Tokyo is dashing to assume a bigger international political role.

The situation is likeliest to develop so that the governments of the two countries will not treat comfort women as a diplomatic problem. Instead, social organizations and individuals will continue to address it and the governments will provide assistance from the sidelines. But after Wednesday, the burden of resolution is heavier on Seoul than on Tokyo.

Seoul, U.S. Sign Security Cooperation Pact 3 Aug

SK0408091993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea will pay royalties to America on 26 military items made with U.S. technology instead of 61 under an agreement signed on Tuesday, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The number of royalty-exempt items will be increased from 39 to 56, and 106-mm recoilless rifles and 17 other items will be erased from the list.

Second Assistant Defense Minister An Pyong-kil of Korea and Defense Security Assistance Agency Deputy Director Glenn Rudd revised the 1987 memorandum of understanding on royalty and signed the agreement in a Security Cooperation Committee (SCC) meeting. Seoul and Washington finished three days of committee and subcommittee meetings in Hawaii on security cooperation, logistics, policy revision, and defense technology and industrial cooperation on Wednesday to coordinate the security consultative meeting that is slated for November in the Korean capital.

Under the agreement, Washington won't impose royalties on Korea for items no longer made or sold in the United States while claiming money from the nations that buy the items from Korea. But Korea and third countries are all free of royalties on the items that were erased from the list.

Korea had been paying 5 percent to 8 percent royalties on defense equipment made here with American technology, and on items it sold to other countries. During the SCC meeting, Seoul and Washington discussed problems of transfering U.S. technology for localization of F-16 engine parts, inventories of outworn equipment and acquiring weapons that may be needed in the future.

Seoul Proposes Restructuring UN Security Council

SK0408015293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] United Nations, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government on Tuesday proposed a Security Council [UNSC] restructuring plan under which the United Nations could name new permanent members of the council without veto power. The plan was submitted to U.N. Secretary-general Butrus Butrus-Ghali by the Korean mission to the United Nations. The plan calls for the restructuring of the Security Council, including an increase in the number of permanent members in order to keep pace with the changing world.

The restructuring, however, should not impede the effectiveness of the council, it said. South Korea made the proposal apparently with Japan's bid for permanent Security Council membership in mind, sources said.

Specifically, the South Korean plan proposes the creation of a "new category" of permanent members and selection of these members based on the ability of the candidate countries to contribute to international peace and stability and willingness to serve in the council. But South Korea made it clear that it was against bestowing the veto right on the new permanent members that the original five permanent members have.

The South Korean Government noted in the proposal that the Security Council had not seen any permanent member exercise its veto power in the post-Cold War era and the original functions were being restored to the

Security Council. There was no need, therefore, to revise the current veto system, the proposal said.

Since the number of the United Nations memberships has risen considerably, the number of the non-permanent members of the council, which is 10 at present, should also be increased, it said. The number of the non-permanent members should be distributed equitably by region in accordance with the number of U.N. member countries and population, it said.

South Korea submitted the proposal in response to a resolution adopted at the 47th General Assembly last year, asking each member country for its position on a possible restructuring of the Security Council. The secretary-general issued an interim report on Monday based on proposals from 50 member countries received thus far. He is expected to make a full report on the issue at the General Assembly meeting this fall.

Seoul Allows Three Foreign Security Firms To Open

SK0408092693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government announced on Wednesday that three foreign securities companies will be allowed to open offices in Korea. They are Warburg Securities Co. of Britain, and Morgan Stanley Co. and First Boston Securities of the United States. Finance Ministry officials said the offices would open by the end of the year. At the end of July, foreign securities companies had 10 branch offices and 27 liaison offices in Korea.

Union Declares Hyundai Pay Offer Approval Invalid

SK0408072093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Ulsan, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Wood Industries Co. is in turmoil over the validity of a union vote Tuesday, and Hyundai Construction Equipment Co. is expected to need longer to settle its labor dispute. Hope of ending the more than month-long dispute dissolved in acrimony at a Hyundai wood factory on Wednesday when the union declared a 50.14-percent approval of a company pay offer invalid because the polling booths had been closed an hour early.

The union commission reversed its announcement that the offer had been accepted by just seven votes after strong opposition from some members, who noted that ballot counting started at 11 A.M. although voting was scheduled for 9 A.M. until noon. Militants claimed that many of their number were unable to vote as a result and demanded that the outcome be annulled.

At the company's Ulsan factory, which rejected the offer, some 150 union members who would have voted "no" were unable to cast their ballots because the polls were closed early, they said. Their votes would have reversed the result, the militants argued.

Management is insisting that the membership legally approved its pay offer and the radical elements of the union are beyond their rights in trying to reject the result of a democratic procedure. "We won't tolerate some radical unionists opposing a result that was reached through democratic procedures. We won't accept any bargaining nor negotiations from now on," a company spokesman said.

Ignoring the union's invalidation of the vote, management ended its eight-day-long lockout Wednesday and told workers to go on their summer holidays until Aug. 9. It gave each of them a 150,000 won holiday allowance as agreed in the disputed pay offer.

The labor minister backed the company's stand. "Although by a shade, the union did approve the tentative agreement and therefore it should immediately sign a wage agreement," he said. The union told its members to accept the holiday but said it would hold a new vote when they returned.

Meanwhile, the intense verbal tug-of-war between labor and management over a productivity incentive bonus went nowhere at Hyundai construction equipment. The two sides agreed on 4.74-percent pay raise in addition to an annual 18,000 won raise, a 150-percent bonus according to business performance, an 80,000 won Chusok holiday bonus, and a 45-percent productivity incentive.

But talks broke down when the union insisted that the company pay the productivity incentive only to workers who took part in job actions. "The union is demanding something that is against the law," the company said of giving the bonus only to strikers.

Hyundai Wood Company To Lift Lockout 4 Aug

SK0308112493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1027 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Ulsan, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—The Ulsan plant of Hyundai Wood Industrial Co. decided on Tuesday to lift on Wednesday the lockout it imposed on last July 27 to cope with striking unionists. A company official said the decision was made after a tentative labor-management compromise plan was endorsed by unionists with a vote of 50.14 percent for and 49.7 percent against.

However, there remains the seed of disputes as the union of the Hyundai Wood's Ulsan plant declared Tuesday's vote void and null, saying it would hold another vote on Aug. 10. The management says the vote was valid and there could be no more negotiations with the union. It threatened to handle rigidly by law and company regulations those "radical" unionists trying to nullify Wednesday's vote.

The controversy began as the union leaders closed voting at 10:40 A.M., one hour and 20 minutes ahead of the

planned 12 noon deadline, when all those in the precincts of the voting station cast their ballots. Hardline unionists claimed the vote should be nullified because if the voting were allowed to last until the originally planned 12 noon, many of the 230 unionits or 13.9 percent of the total, who did not vote, might have voted, which could have led to an opposite outcome.

The labor-management reached a tentative compromise plan on July 31, which called for a 4.7 percent wage hike, increase of family allowance by 10,000 won and the payment of an achievement bonus equivalent to 150 percent of a month's wage, a summer vacation allowance of 150,000 won and a business reward of 300,000 won. Meanwhile, labor-management negotiations continued on Tuesday at Hyundai Construction Equipment Co. But, little progress was registered as the union demanded that a proposed productivity increase allowance be paid only to those unionists who take part in strikes.

Burma

Military Seizes Illegal Thai Saw Mill

BK3007161093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] During mopping-up operations on the morning of 29 July, our military column noticed an illegal saw mill run by a group of about 15 Thai nationals in the jungle on our territory about half a mile south of Palu Village in Myawaddy Township.

When our military column approached the saw mill, the illegal saw mill operators started shooting with small weapons, including an M-79 launcher. When our column reciprocated, they crossed the (Thaungyi) River and fled into Thailand. There were no casualties on our side.

Three motors, two three-foot diameter round saws, two three-and-a-half-foot diameter round saws, and one speed boat were seized by the military column during the incident. It has been learned from the authorities that matters concerning Thais nationals illegally entering our territory and illegally smuggling out our wood will be raised and protested at the Myawaddy-Mea Sot township-level border committee meeting.

Bangladesh Returns 516 Refugees 26 Jul

BK0308141093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by Camp Supervisor Mr. (Manivul Hussain Khan) from the country on the other side transferred 516 returnees—255 males and 261 females—from 108 households to our Kanyinchaung reception center at 1030 on 26 July 1993. The returnees were brought in by 16 motorboats. The delegation left at 1500.

More on Rebel Attack in Eastern Village

BK0308154993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents have been disrupting peace and tranquillity by burning villages and killing villagers who are residing peacefully under the rule of law. At about 0730 on 31 July a group of Kayan terrorist insurgents led by Aik Paung entered Myenigon village in Pekon Township from the Mobye region. They fired rocket launchers and small arms and burned houses in the village. Due to the shooting incident, Ma Sein Yee Lay, age 12, daughter of U Than; and Maung Kyaw Moe Aung, age two years, son of U Maung Hnyar, died of head injuries while Maung Bet, age 12 years; Ma Win Tint, age eight years; Maung Aung Myint, age one year; and Daw Tungar, age 65 years, were wounded.

The insurgents also set fire to houses destroying 14 out of 15 dwellings including 350 baskets of paddy [one basket approximately equals one bushel].

It has been learned that our defense services columns are in pursuit of the fleeing terrorist insurgents. Meanwhile, Colonel Maung Kyi, chairman of Kayah State Law and Order Restoration Council, arrived at Myenigon village at 1630 on that day and visited the bereaved families and relatives. The wounded were also sent to Loikaw General Hospital.

Karen Rebels Rob House, Kill Villager

BK0208141593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents have been disrupting the peace and tranquility by killing villagers who are residing peacefully under the rule of law, looting and burning villages. At about 0030 on 28 July a group of Karen terrorist insurgents entered the house of U Tun Shein in the railway station area, Kutoseik Village Tract, Thanbyuzayat Township. They shot and killed U Tun Shein, aged 60 years, abducted his son Maung Than Oo and daughter Ma Bok Sone, and stole about Kyat 44,100 worth of jewelry.

It has been learned that our defense services columns are in pursuit of the fleeing terrorist insurgents.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Najib: Peacekeeping Troops To Depart for Croatia

BK0408124493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1037 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will send 20 soldiers to the United Nations Protection Force's (UNPROFOR) Command in Zagreb, Croatia as soon as possible, Defence Minister Najib Razak said Wednesday. It also decided that preparations to despatch a Malaysian battalion to Bosnia-Herzegovina be expedited, he told reporters here.

These were among decisions reached regarding the deployment of Malaysian soldiers for UN peacekeeping duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said but did not elaborate on the others.

Najib said the armed forces command has received the team's vital feedback for the possible deployment of Malaysian soldiers to Bosnia-Herzegovina in November. We were also told that our peacekeeping mission in Bosnia would be on the same basis as that in Cambodia and Somalia, he said. Malaysia sent 879 men and 900 to Cambodia and Somalia respectively.

The UN has agreed to reimburse operational costs and allowances for the soldiers during the mission, he said.

Najib said the Bosnian tour of duty would be the most hazardous for Malaysian soldiers compared with earlier missions in Zaire, Namibia, Iraq, Kuwait, Angola and Mozambique, among others.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysian soldiers would be sent to Bosnia on condition that the UN provides adequate air cover for them, supplies the equipment and does not withdraw the multi-national troops already with the UN mission there. Dr. Mahathir had said that Malaysian troops would not be sent to the killing fields in Bosnia.

Mahathir Critical of APEC Summit, STAR TV Purchase

BK0308134493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan, Aug 3 (AFP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed Tuesday slammed the United States for being undiplomatic in proposing a meeting of leaders of the Asia Pacific and "have everyone move along with the idea."

Mahathir also charged that the proposal to upgrade and institutionalise the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was a ploy by larger Western powers to control the smaller Asian nations. Reiterating his decision to stay away from the proposed APEC summit in Seattle in November, Mahathir said he would be very happy to attend if the proposal had been mooted by APEC itself.

"I would be very happy to go if the proposal had come from APEC during a meeting of the organisation. But to have one nation saying we should have a summit and that everyone should move along is undiplomatic," Mahathir told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Brunei.

He also rejected Australia's recent proposal for a change in name and scope of APEC, which was formed in 1989 as a loose consultative forum to promote free trade and economic cooperation among countries in the Pacific rim and has a secretariat in Singapore.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal of a meeting of APEC leaders, made in Tokyo last month during the summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations, has already won wide global support. Except for Malaysia, all the other five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand have said they will attend the summit.

The United States is current chairman of the 15-member APEC, which groups the ASEAN members with Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Canada have also voiced support for Clinton's proposal.

Mahathir said what Malaysia feared had come to pass—that APEC would be turned into a formal body to help the stronger members.

"Our fears that APEC will be manipulated by the major powers have become reality. Initially, it was said that APEC will not need a secretariat but now a secretariat has been set up," Mahathir said.

Although Malaysia is in APEC, it has been campaigning hard for a grouping of East Asia's fastest growing economies called the East Asia Economic Caucus [EAEC], which excludes the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The EAEC, adopted by ASEAN's foreign ministers in Singapore last week, aims to group ASEAN with China, Japan, South Korea and later the lesser developed Indochinese states, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1223 GMT on 3 August reports: "Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed charged Tuesday that media baron Rupert Murdoch's recent purchase of a majority stake in STAR TV was part of a western attempt to control information in Asia.

["'If he is not going to control news we are going to receive, then what is it? There are plenty of places elsewhere where he can make money. But paying such a fantastic price for a network which has never shown any profit ... you would want to know why,' said Mahathir.

["Murdoch's News Corp. announced July 26 it had agreed to pay 525 million U.S. dollars for a 63.6-percent stake in STAR TV to Hutchison Whampoa and Li Ka-Shing, the Hong Kong property tycoon who founded the satellite broadcaster. Set up in April 1991, STAR TV broadcasts five channels, including BBC World Service television and the music video channel MTV, with an estimated 45 million viewers in 38 countries from Japan to the Middle East.

["Mahathir, speaking at a press conference here winding up a three-day visit to Brunei, said some newspapers and magazines based in Asia but controlled by those outside Asia were out to discredit the region's achievements.

["'There is truly no Asian newspaper for Asians at present. Only there are western papers published in the name of Asia,' he said. 'Now that Murdoch has bought over STAR TV you can be sure that STAR TV will also be working along the same lines,' said Mahathir, adding that the west wanted to create 'friction and instability' to dent fast-developing Asia's competitive advantage.

["'Of course they will say this is nonsense but that is what they do,' he said.

[Mahathir said Malaysia was working on the possibility of having some form of media network that would enable Asian or at least East Asian countries to be portrayed 'in the proper light.' He did not elaborate."]

Mandela Ends Two-Day Working Visit 3 Aug

BK0408051293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0357 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 4 (OANA/BERNAMA)—African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela left for home late Tuesday after meeting Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed here. He briefed the prime minister, who returned Tuesday evening from a three-day visit to Brunei, on the political development in South Africa.

The 75-year old anti-apartheid leader visited ANC's representative office where he was briefed by its chief representative, Ismail Coonavia.

Mandela, who wound up his brief two-day working visit here after meeting with Dr Mahathir, praised Malaysia's rapid progress. He said Malaysia had shown a high standard of excellence in building its economy and promoting peace and stability in the region.

We want to share Malaysia's experience in housing construction, education and tackling problems such as unemployment, he told a press conference before leaving for Johannesburg. We have a lot to learn from Malaysia, said the 75-year old anti-apartheid leader who is preparing his ANC party for the first non-racial South African election scheduled for April 27 next year.

He briefed Dr Mahathir on the current political development in South Africa.

Describing Dr Mahathir as one of ANC's strongest supporter, Mandela said the prime minister responded positively and constructively to its request. He did not elaborate.

Asked if he made any specific request for financial assistance, Mandela said: I put in the entire situation to the pm [prime minister] and his response to the entire representation I made was very constructive.

Asked to elaborate on the response he had received worldwide growing [words indistinct] a recent report that the ANC needed U.S.$43 mullion to contest the election, he said that his arithmetic was bad but that the response had been very good. He had travelled to the United States and conducted fund-raising campaigns back home for the ANC since the election date was decided last month.

Mandela said he spoke with President F.W. De Klerk over the phone Tuesday and exchanged views on ways to stop the prevailing unrest in the country.

Two Companies Announce New Ventures in PRC

BK2907141193 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Jul 93 p 16

[Text] Magnum Corporation Bhd. [Limited] and Dunlop Estates Bhd. yesterday announced new ventures in China involving the operation of a recreation club and an entertainment centre as well as the construction of a hospital block, commercial complex, and housing estate.

In a joint announcement, the two companies said their investment company in Hong Kong, Magnum Investment Limited, entered into four separate agreements with several parties in China to participate in development projects in Beijing, Shenyang, and Guangzhou.

Magnum Investment will take up a 60 percent stake in Beijing Magnum Entertainment (Royal International Club) Co. Ltd. which will set up and operate an international business class recreation club in Beijing.

Beijing Changzheng Hotel, a company under the Beijing Aeronautical Administration, and Hong Kong Food Management Pte. Ltd. [Private Limited] will own a 20 percent stake each in Beijing Magnum Entertainment.

The three partners signed the agreement on Feb. 14 but in May, Magnum Investment acquired from Hong Kong Food Management its entire share of 20 percent in Beijing Magnum Entertainment at cost.

As a result, Beijing Magnum Entertainment is now an 80 percent subsidiary of Magnum Investment.

Beijing Magnum Entertainment, which will have an initial share capital of U.S. $2.1 million (RM [Malaysian ringgit] 5.4 million), will operate the club over a 20-year period from the date of commencement of operations.

The total investment for the project is estimated at U.S. $4 million (RM 10.3 million).

Beijing Magnum Entertainment has obtained the approvals and will complete the construction of its club within a year.

Beijing Magnum Entertainment has also entered into an agreement with Dalian Kuok Hua Entertainment Co. to operate an entertainment centre in Dalian.

With its investment of U.S. $2 million (RM 5.1 million), Beijing Magnum will have a 90 percent share of the profits.

Magnum Investment has signed an agreement with First Army Medical University Zhujiang Hospital and Guangdong Union Property Development Pte. Ltd. to build a nine-storey 204-bed hospital block for the Zhujiang Hospital in Guangdong.

It will invest RMB [Renminbi] 40 million (RM 13.3 million) and will receive a fixed yearly payment of RMB 10 million (RM 3.3 million) for a period of five years commencing from the third year after the signing of the agreement.

Magnum Investment is also teaming up with Shenyang Heping 3rd Industries Development Co. and Hong Kong Mingzhudao Property Development Ltd. to build a seven-storey commercial complex in Shenyang in Liaoning Province.

Magnum Investment will hold a 40 percent stake in the joint venture company Shenyang Renhe Enterprise Development Ltd. which will have a share capital of RMB 88.75 million (RM29.6 million).

Hong Kong Mingzhudao will own 40 percent, while the remaining 20 percent will be held by Shenyang Heping 3rd Industries.

Construction is scheduled to take a year and upon completion, the building space will be let out primarily for rental income for a period of 50 years.

Total investment in the project is expected to amount to RMB 170 million (RM 56.7 million). Magnum Investment will invest RMB 35.5 million (RM 11.8 million) comprising RMB 20.5 million (RM 6.8 mil[illegible] in cash and the balance of RMB 15 million (RM 5 [illegible]ion) in materials and equipment.

The fourth agreement of Magnum Investment is with Shenyang Municipality-Heping District People's Government for the development of a housing estate comprising 50,000 residential units.

Total development cost will be RMB 170 million (RM 56.7 million). The project is scheduled to take four years to complete.

Magnum Investment will provide financial resources amounting to RMB 150 million (RM 50 million).

The profit to be shared between the two partners is in the ratio of 75 percent (Magnum Investment) and 25 percent (the Chinese party).

Trade Minister Urges Argentine Partnership

BK3007134193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0955 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz has called for partnership between Argentine and Malaysian companies to venture into third countries.

She proposed that companies from both countries explore the opportunities of teaming up to conduct [words indistinct] countries such as Vietnam and China, according to a statement by the Malaysian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina released here Friday.

Rafidah said this at a meeting with Argentine businessmen in Buenos Aires, during which she updated participants on the present state of the Malaysian economy and outlined the potential areas for joint ventures.

Rafidah was leading a trade delegation of representatives from 20 Malaysian companies to Argentina from July 25 to 27 with the aim of strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations to promote Malaysian exports and services, to encourage joint ventures, and to source for selected Argentine poducts.

The minister told the Argentine businessmen that the potential areas which they could explore with their Malaysian counterparts included trading, tourism and hotel industry, manufacturing, mining, plantations, forestry, services including construction, and financial services.

Following the dialogue session, the Malaysian companies in the trade mission held over 450 individual meetings with 160 Argentine companies from which about RM [Malaysian ringgit] (?52,000) in immediate sales were clinched with potential sales of over RM 235.6 million were expected within the one year.

The embassy said the value of potential import business from Argentina by mission members within the next few months had been estimated at RM 5.2 million and the potential development for joint ventures in construction and manufacturing projects in Argentina was estimated to be over RM 52 million.

In a meeting with Guido di Tella, the Argentine minister of foreign affairs, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah discussed the outstanding issues on the proposed investment guarantee agreement between Malaysia and Argentine.

They agreed that these issues should be resolved as soon as possible to enable the early conclusion of the agreement, the embassy said, adding that both ministers were also confident that present negotiations pertaining to the proposed avoidance of double taxation agreement between the two countries could be concluded soon.

The statement said during the meeting, di Tella announced that the Argentine Government would take immediate steps to do away with visa requirements for Malaysians visiting Argentina to reciprocate Malaysia's previous decision to abolish visa reqirements for Argentines visiting Malaysia.

The statement said the move was aimed at further facilitating and promoting commercial, tourism, and other exchanges between the two countries.

Kampuchea Airlines To Increase Flights 3 Aug

BK0208085793 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0636 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug. 2 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Kampuchea Airlines will mount two additional flights, bringing to three its total weekly frequency between Kuala Lumpur and Phnom Penh. The airlines said in a statement here that the new schedule would begin tomorrow, which was aimed at meetimg increased passenger payload between Malaysia and Cambodia.

The flights, all on Boeing 737 aircraft, would depart Kuala Lumpur at noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to arrive in Phnom Penh at one in the afternoon local time. These are turnaround flights, which take off from Phnom Penh at 8 am local time.

Kampuchea Airlines also said, effective the same date, two more flights per week would be added on its Singapore-Phnom Penh route, departing Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Speaker Rejects Opposition Motion on Deputy Premier

BK0408103193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0958 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The speaker of the Malaysian Lower House of Parliament, Zahir Ismail Wednesday rejected an opposition motion to adjourn the sitting to discuss Ghafar Baba's position as deputy prime minister. The motion was tabled by the opposition leader Lim Kit Siang of the Democratic Action Party (DAP) following a statement by chairman of the back benchers club (BBC) Shahidan Kassim last week.

Shahidan has said that 35 of the 38 BBC members from the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), which is a major component of the ruling National Front coalition, supported Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim to vie for the post of deputy president in the party elections in November. The president and deputy president of UMNO automatically become prime minister and deputy prime minister if the coalition wins the general election.

Zahir in rejecting the motion, said it was UMNO's internal matter and did not warrant the Dewan Rakyat (Lower House of Parliament) adjourning its meeting, which was more important, just to discuss the matter.

Describing Shahdan's statement as a campaign for the UMNO elections, he said, the candidates and the posts to be contested, including the deputy presidency, had not been decided. Even if there is a contest, we cannot say who will succeed, he said.

Ghafar Baba is the incumbent Deputy President of UMNO.

Industrial Corporation Records Lower Pretax Profit

BK0308121793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Jul 93 p 14

[Text] Hicom Bhd. [Heavy Industries Corporation Limited] has announced a lower group pre-tax profit after minority interests of RM [Malaysian ringgit] 200.3 million for the year ended March 31, '993.

This is a 28.6 percent decline from RM 280.7 million recorded in the previous period.

The lower profit was primarily due to lower contribution from associate company Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd. (Proton) following Hicom's partial divestment of its stake in the national car manufacturer. Proton had also recorded a lower profit for the year under review.

The divestment was made in conjunction with Proton's flotation exercise in the 1992 financial year. Hicom had reaped substantial extraordinary gains from this divestment exercise.

President Tan Sri Jamil Mohd Jan, in announcing Hicom results in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, said despite the lower pre-tax profit, the group considered its performance to be encouraging.

At company level, Hicom recorded an improvement of 77.1 percent in pre-tax profit to RM 80.4 million against RM 45.4 million the previous year.

"The overall performance has been encouraging and holds bright prospects for Hicom and the group.

"Hicom is poised to take on greater challenges with regional and global market focus following strategic steps to consolidate the group's businesses," Jamil said.

To further diversify and broaden its earnings base, Jamil said Hicom would actively pursue promising strategic businesses in growth areas through new investments.

An example of a growth area, said Jamil, is the telecommunications industry.

Hicom's venture into this sector will be spearheaded by Mobikom Sdn. Bhd. [Private Limited], the third mobile network operator in which Hicom's associate company Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd. has a stake.

The airline industry is also another growth area where Hicom is moving in through the second national carrier consortium.

Jamil said Hicom would also continue to promote the development of the manufacturing industry, especially heavy industry in cooperation with the private sector.

In this respect, Jamil said, Hicom's intention to participate in Amalgamated Steel Mill Bhd.'s megasteel project was on the basis that the project should be feasible.

"We are interested in principle if it is feasible," he said, adding that there were other proponents for such projects such as Gunawan Steel, Nusantara Steel, and Perwaja Steel.

Reviewing group operations, Jamil said Proton recorded a pre-tax profit of RM 311.2 million on turnover of RM 2.3 billion. The profit was 24 percent lower than the previous year's RM 407.9 million due to soft demand for passenger cars.

Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd. (EON), 31.68 percent associate company, turned in a pre-tax profit after minority interests of RM 180.2 million. This was an increase of 3.8 percent over the previous year's profit of RM 173.7 million.

Another associate company, Kedah Cement Holdings Bhd., continued to record an improvement in its pre-tax

profit. For the year under review, the profit rose 23.8 percent to RM 53.1 million.

Jamil said associated companies involved in the manufacture of motorcycle engines had total turnover and pre-tax profit of RM 189.5 million and RM 13.6 million respectively.

He said Hicom had made several significant corporate moves during the year under review, including a joint venture agreement with Menang Corp. (M) Bhd. to acquire a 16-ha [hectare] land in Kelana Jaya which will be developed into an urban centre and a 30 percent equity participation in Sucasa Sdn. Bhd. (owner of Sucasa Hotel Apartments).

Singapore

Software Piracy Causes Losses in Asia, Europe

BK0308022193 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 2 Aug 93 p 3

[From the weekly Business-IT, information technology, section]

[Text] SOFTWARE piracy poses the biggest threat to legitimate publishers in Asia, with pirated products estimated as high as 99 per cent of the total software business in some countries, according to a recent study by a software industry grouping.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA), which has just completed the study, found the incidence of software piracy highest in Asia vis-a-vis Europe and the United States, and estimated annual losses to piracy in Asia to be as much as US$5.4 billion (S $8.6 billion [Singapore dollars]).

The BSA is a non-profit organisation that combats piracy.

Presenting the data at last week's conference on Pan-Asia Intellectual Property in the IT [information technology] Industry, the chairman of BSA Singapore, Peter Wong, said pirated software in Thailand accounted for up to US$181 million, or 99 per cent, of total software sales in the kingdom.

Mr Wong said in Taiwan, 93 per cent of all software sold were pirated copies and this meant a loss of US$585 million for legitimate software makers.

In Japan, the comparable figures were 92 per cent of software sales, for losses of US$3 billion.

In Singapore, estimates indicate that 41 per cent of all software sales were pirated copies and this accounted for losses of up to US$24 million Mr Wong said.

Mr Wong, who is also general manager of Microsoft South-east Asia, quoted the example of MS-DOS and Windows, the dominant operating system software from Microsoft.

The local market absorbed about 71,200 personal computers (PCs) last year, of which up to 80 per cent were bundled with either MS-DOS or Windows.

While operating system software on this substantial portion was easily accounted for, there remained about 14,000 PCs in the local market that could be open to copyright violations.

Mr Wong went on to explain how Microsoft protects its own intellectual property. For example, he said, the company's MS-DOS 6.0 upgrade kit comes in two versions—a retail package and an original equipment manufacturers (OEM) package.

For the retail packages, he said, Microsoft expects its buyers to check if the packages have a hologram as well as a security label. As for the OEM package, there is a certificate of authencity with a unique serial number.

Looking further, Mr Wong said intellectual property protection should be enforced because piracy discourages Singapore's own developers from producing software.

In addition, software piracy goes against the IT2000 masterplan and it will "prevent companies from investing in Singapore".

He added that companies should adopt longer-term measures to combat the problem. These include education, criminal prosecution, the use of CD-ROM drives, which make it harder to duplicate software, and distributing software on-line.

Software Piracy: Worldwide Percentage & 1992 Losses

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE OF PIRACY	US$ LOSSES
Australia/New Zealand	45	160 million
France	73	1.2 billion
Germany	62	1 billion
Italy	86	550 million
Japan	92	3 billion
Korea	82	648 million
Singapore	41	24 million
Sweden	60	171 million
Taiwan*	93	585 million
Thailand	99	181 million
UK	54	685 million
US	35	1.9 billion

* Taiwan statistics based on estimated 1990 software and hardware data and reflect losses to US software publishers only.

Government Restricts ECONOMIST Circulation

BK0308114593 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Aug 93 p 3

[Excerpt] The Government has gazetted THE ECONOMIST with effect from yesterday for refusing to print a letter of reply and warned that it may slash its circulation.

A Ministry of Information and the Arts [MITA] statement said that unless it published its reply, the government will reduce the London-based weekly's circulation of 7,500 copies progressively, starting from its August 14-20 issue.

With the gazette, THE ECONOMIST can for now circulate only 7,500 copies. It also has to place markers on each copy informing readers that it is a restricted publication.

The government will also revoke, from September 6, the weekly's exemption from applying for a permit under Section 16 of the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act [NPPA].

It will then be treated as an offshore newspaper and must comply with its provisions which include placing a [Singapore dollar] $200,000 security deposit.

The letter which the weekly refused to publish pertained to the government's stand on the Privy Council's view of Mr J.B. Jeyaretnam's 1986 criminal convictions.

It marked the second dispute between THE ECONOMIST and the Singapore Government over the right of unedited reply.

In a July 10-16 issue, the weekly carried a letter from Mr. Jeyaretnam who said he had suffered "grievous injustice" as the Privy Council had said that his criminal convictions for fraud were "all wrong in law".

Singapore's High Commissioner in London, Mr. Abdul Aziz Mahmood, wrote to the weekly rebutting Mr Jeyaretnam's letter.

He noted that in a subsequent suit brought by Mr. Jeyaretnam in London, an English judge, Mr. Justice Brooke, ruled that the Privy Council was not presented with an appeal against the criminal convictions and had no jurisdiction over them. "This has always been the government's stand," said Mr. Abdul Aziz's letter.

THE ECONOMIST declined to publish it.

The first dispute related to the weekly's publication of an article about a case under the Official Secrets Act.

In the MITA statement, the Government reiterated its position on the right of reply which it said it has applied consistently since the NPPA came into force in 1986.

The Government's view is that foreign publications can publish what they want about Singapore and sell their publications to Singaporeans.

"They are entitled to their own point of view. However the Singapore Government must have its right of unedited reply," said the statement.

"It will respond to inaccurate reporting or unfair allegations. The government's policy on its right of reply is well-publicised and applied to all domestic and foreign journals which circulate in Singapore." [passage omitted]

Magazine To Publish Government Response

BK0308153393 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The British news magazine THE ECONOMIST has agreed to give the Singapore Government the right of reply in its next issue. The editor Mr. Bill Emmott is to publish the Singapore high commissioner's letter in response to Mr. J.B. Jeyaretnam. The former opposition member of parliament has claimed in a letter that he suffered grievous injustice as the Privy Council had said that his criminal convictions for fraud were all wrong in law.

THE ECONOMIST was [words indistinct] as a publication engaging in Singapore's domestic politics yesterday. In a letter to secretary of the Ministry of Information and the Arts, Mr. Goh Kim Leong, Mr. Emmott said [words indistinct] has always been fair. However, he could not publish two letters of the high commisioner in the same issue. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attack Train, Kill 10, Rob Passengers

BK0408053393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] At 1430 on 2 August, a train travelling from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh was attacked by a group of armed men suspected of being Khmer Rouge elements in an area some 20 km east of Kampot provincial town. They planted mines and fired on the train with machine guns and rockets, killing 10 passengers and wounding at least 30 others. Following the attack they boarded the train and forcibly seized passengers' belongings, forcing 40 passengers at gunpoint to carry the haul to an area 5 kilometers from the railroad. They immediately released the 40 passengers after the job was done.

French UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] troops arrived at the scene at once and restored security to the area. An emergency makeshift center was set up with the assistance of UNTAC police forces and Red Cross workers, and seriously wounded victims were sent to the hospital in Kampot town.

The onslaught was carried out one day after the Khmer Rouge attacked an UNTAC checkpoint on the border

with Thailand in Preah Vihear Province. They detained 21 UN peacekeepers for 11 hours inside Thai territory before releasing them.

24-30 Jul Khmer Rouge Attacks Reported

BK0308100293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] According to the Cambodian National Armed Forces [CNAF] command in Battambang Province, Khmer Rouge rebels plundered and attacked with ground forces some CNAF positions in Bavel, Battambang, and Moung Russei Districts between 24 and 30 July. They also planted mines, blowing up railway lines and some bridges along Route 5 in Moung Russei, Battambang, and Sangke Districts.

As a matter of fact, at 0430 on 30 July, Khmer Rouge elements backed by artillery attacked the CNAF positions at coordinates 49/67 and 49/07. After two hours of battle, seven Provisional National Government of Cambodia soldiers were wounded and a significant quantity of materials set on fire.

Also on 30 July, at 0500, a group of Khmer Rouge rebels attacked a position of the government forces' 1st Regiment, 190th Division at coordinates TV96/72 in the Ta Hen area. They also fired some 200 shells to put pressure on the aforesaid position, wounding four government troops.

On 29 July, Khmer Rouge rebels fired about 300 shells to put pressure on the Pong Rou base, which is the command headquarters of the government forces.

The Khmer Rouge rebels also conducted attacks in other provinces, such as Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampot, and so on.

As a matter of fact, on 27 July Khmer Rouge rebels from the 14th Regiment and 81st Battalion planted mines on a stretch of Route 12, blowing up a car travelling from Prasat Balang District to the provincial town and wounding three passengers.

The same source also pointed out that the Khmer Rouge plan to strike the Choam Khsan District seat in Preah Vihear Province and some localities in Kampot and Kompong Speu Provinces shortly after the forthcoming withdrawal of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces from Cambodia.

According to an SPK correspondent in Siem Reap Province, at 2200 on 27 July, some 30 Polpotists raided Bangkang village, Ampel commune, Siem Reap District. After robbing the villagers of their property, they shot and killed a former combatant of the demobilized E43 armed unit in the Fourth Military Region and took his cassette recorder and some belongings.

Indonesia

Commander: 'No Problem' Sending Troops to Bosnia

BK0408092193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Several countries grouped in the Islamic Conference Organization, including Indonesia, have expressed their readiness to send troops to Bosnia to strengthen the UN peacekeeping forces there. Speaking to reporters at the Bina Graha presidential office before attending a cabinet meeting in Jakarta this morning, Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung said Indonesia has no problem in sending peacekeeping troops to Bosnia:

[Begin Tanjung recording] We are ready to send observers to Bosnia, but if they want enforcing force [preceding two words in English], we need thorough preparations. It has a different mission. Currently, we believe in sending a peacekeeping force [preceding two words in English], not an enforcing force [preceding two words in English], because it connotes readiness for combat. If that is the case, we must have good preparations for our troops; they must have proper training, equipment, and logistics. They must have special equipment because it will be winter there. In short, it takes time to train them. [end recording]

Indonesia has already dispatched peacekeeping forces to several countries, including Cambodia. Malaysia has also expressed its readiness to send troops to Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Daily Hails ASEAN Move To Link EAEC, APEC

BK0308130993 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 30 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Negotiating a compromise between EAEC and APEC"]

[Text] "Giant" America cannot always have its own way. Nor, to be fair, should "little" Malaysia.

Thus, ASEAN has taken another step forward with its East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) when its foreign ministers decided in Singapore early this week to link the "caucus" with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Since the EAEC is still only an idea supported by the governments of ASEAN despite its "East Asia" label, while APEC continues primarily to be dominated by American-Australian interests irrespective of its "Asia-Pacific" name, the ASEAN proposal on the matter, therefore, offers the governments concerned the best compromise.

No doubt, if indeed the EAEC-APEC linkage is intended to accomodate those countries still opposed to the proposed caucus, it should, therefore, be commended. It is understood that the United States Government has done

so although its response could not yet be considered similar to a welcome much less an affirmation.

And so the problem concerning the EAEC remains the U.S. which has opposed it from the outset. That is because Washington regards it as, in the word of Deputy Secretary of State [title as published] Warren Christopher, exclusive.

It is exclusive because the U.S. is excluded from it for the simple reason that America is not part of East Asia. A statement of fact, yes; substance-wise, it is more complicated than that.

Politically, the EAEC is not only exclusive but originally also combative toward the large economic powers, one of them being the U.S. What's more, such purported stance of the caucus when it was first introduced is generally seen as representing the international political style of its creator, Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed.

Now that has passed because the EAEC in its revised form and manifestation is already promoted into an ASEAN programme. What needs to be done next is to "sell" it to the other East Asian countries.

Since it is to be established as a caucus within APEC, by definition, the EAEC's membership is, thus, restricted. Apart from the six ASEAN countries, Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong—all members of APEC—are eligible for inclusion (the other four member states are the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand).

It means that quite a number of East Asian nations will be excluded. As such, the EAEC will be following APEC which has hitherto shunned them as well as the island states in the vast Pacific area.

In any case, the EAEC membership enrollment will be slow because, with the exception of probably New Zealand, the other three Western countries are still displaying a cynical attitude toward it. Since how they respond to the EAEC would definitely determine its appeal among the other East Asian countries, a selling campaign on behalf of the caucus would have to proceed and that it must be conducted simultaneously on this side of the Pacific as well as across the ocean.

Government Grants Work Release to Jailed Critic

BK3107140093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 22 Jul 93 p 2

[Excerpts] Jakarta (JP)—A jailed member of the Petisi 50 [Petision of 50] organization has been accorded work release privileges in what appears to be the latest move by the government to relax restrictions on its most vociferous critics.

Chris Siner Key Timu, a spokesman for the Petisi 50, confirmed yesterday that Andi Mapetahang Fatwa has been allowed to leave the Cipinang prison each morning to do some work outside.

"Fatwa began the reassimilation process last week," Chris told THE JAKARTA POST. "We hope he will be released soon."

Chris could not confirm reports that Muhammad Sanusi, another jailed member of the Petisi 50, would also be released soon under a presidential pardon.

Fatwa, a noted Muslim preacher, was jailed in 1985 after the Central Jakarta court found him guilty of subversion for delivering sermons with inflammatory messages in various places in Jakarta.

Sanusi, 70, the former light industries minister, was sentenced to 19 years in jail in 1985 by the West Jakarta district court on subversion charges for financing three bomb attacks in Jakarta in 1984, targeted at properties belonging to Chinese-Indonesians. Two people were killed in the bombings.

A year later, he received another 20-year jail sentence for plotting to kill President Suharto on two occasions in 1982 and 1983.

The Supreme Court repealed Sanusi's second sentence in March this year, saying that someone who has been jailed cannot be sentenced to another term until he has completed his first sentence.

Sanusi has denied all the accusations leveled against him and charged that he was made a scapegoat for much of the violence that occurred in the early 1980s. [passage omitted]

Others being considered for the work release privileges reportedly include Abdul Qadir Jaelani, a former lecturer who is serving an 18-year jail term for his fiery sermons which the government said incited young Moslems to violence. Tashrif Tuasikal, who was jailed for organizing the 1984 bombing in Jakarta, may also become part of the program.

Minister: ABRI Reviewing Immigration Blacklist

BK3107105093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 17 Jul 93 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Armed Forces (ABRI) is still evaluating the cases of people who are barred from leaving the country on security grounds, Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security Susilo Sudarman said last night.

Susilo told reporters after a meeting to discuss the travel ban at his office that the latest review of the immigration blacklist has not been completed.

He said the new, partially reviewed immigration blacklist contains 306 names of people who are barred from leaving the country because of debts owed to the government and 586 others who committed criminal acts. The list also contains 189 names of foreign nationals who were barred from entering Indonesia.

The meeting involved Armed Forces Commander, Attorney General Singgih, Minister of Justice Utoyo Usman and Minister of Finance Mar'ie Muhammad. They are the four officials who, under the 1992 Immigration Law, have the legal power to order or revoke travel bans on individuals.

The Armed Forces said earlier this month that 11 people are still barred from travelling overseas on normal security grounds. Most members of this group are believed to be outspoken government critics like former Jakarta governor Ali Sadikin, although the government has never made a formal disclosure on the names of the blacklisted individuals.

Susilo said the meeting also discussed ways of implementing the travel ban based on the new Immigration Law.

The government has been widely criticized by lawyers for not informing those affected by the travel ban as required by the 1992 law.

Editorial Views Reelection of PDI Leader

BK0408095193 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 24 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "PDI's Coming of Age"]

[Text] Contrary to skeptical predictions, there seems there is still some hope for Indonesian democracy, after all. The surprise re-election of the incumbent chairman of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), Suryadi, at the party's congress in Medan on Thursday has virtually opened a new chapter in our political history.

Some may argue that the procedures leading up to Suryadi's re-election should be questioned (Suryadi was elected in a plenary session on the second day of the congress and not on the final day as scheduled), but whatever the process Suryadi has been legitimately elected for another five-year term in office which lasts until 1998. Others may claim that the speeding up of the re- election was simply the result of a tricky maneuver by Suryadi to retain the chairmanship. It was apparent that by speeding up the election, Suryadi succeeded in preventing even more damaging intervention, or a deadlock, forced by outside elements. Whatever the case may be, we are of the opinion that the most important thing is the impact of these events on our democracy. As far as we can recall, this is the first time in the history of the New Order that a clear signal from the chief of the Armed Forces (ABRI)—in this case: "Do not re-elect Suryadi"—was consciously ignored by leaders of a political party.

Cases of civil disobedience on a smaller scale have occurred from time to time in the past, but never defiance on this scale. What could have prompted the congress participants to defy ABRI's message?

Some observers offer the speculation that certain officials might have assured the congress participants that only President Suharto's statement needed to be heeded—that is, the assurance that the government would not interfere in the PDI's affairs in any way—and that other signals, including the ABRI chief's message, could be ignored. Still others believe that it was irritation over the ABRI message, which caused it to backfire and prompted the congress participants to defy it.

The PDI's defiance apparently shocked the government as well. The wait-and-see statement, to the effect that the government is deliberating the case, from the Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs, Susilo Sudarman, is a clear indication of this.

What will now happen to PDI? Will the split within the party go even deeper? Can Suryadi maintain his chairmanship? Will ABRI take this defiance as another sign of PDI's growing leaning towards an opposition stance, which must be acted on accordingly? We will probably get the answers to some of these questions in the next few days. The congress will convene until Monday, and many things can still happen even within that short time span. But whatever happens, it is obvious that Suryadi and the PDI—which in democratic terms can now be considered to be coming of age—must be ready to suffer some headaches. Their defiance has naturally angered some officials and caused them to lose face. One may expect that Suryadi and the other PDI leaders, particularly in the provinces, will have to be ready to face some sort of harassment or other unpleasant incidents in the future.

Be that as it may, we believe that we, whatever our personal feelings towards Suryadi and the PDI, should all refrain from overreacting and try instead to see the PDI case from its positive side: That thanks to the success of our national development efforts, our democracy has apparently also developed and matured accordingly.

We are at present living in an era of rising demands. No doubt the PDI case will have a snowball effect and encourage others to demand to see more substance in our proclaimed democratization drive. And that would be just as well. The time has apparently come.

Sumatera Satellite Ground Stations Under Construction

BK3107082693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Indosat Co. Ltd. is now building two satellite ground stations at Pantai Cermin in North Sumatera and at Bukit Mata Kuching on Batam Island in anticipation of future telecommunications needs by several prospective consumers. Speaking to reporters, Wahyu Wijayadi, head of Indosat's Medan branch, said the construction of the new facilities will strengthen North Sumatera Province's position in global trade. He added that the satellite ground station at Pantai Cermin will be equipped with

microwave transmission facilities, which will connect the region with the Medan-based international satellite gateway station. Wahyu Wijayadi also disclosed the total amount of international telecommunications services in Sumatera during the first quarter of this year.

Three Fretilin Rebels Captured 16 Jul

BK3107142393 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Dili, East Timor—Three alleged members of the FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] separatist movement were arrested after one of them opened fire on a group of Indonesian troops in Soibaba village, some 123 kilometers from here.

A local businessman, Herman Suleman, told THE JAKARTA POST that on Friday [16 July] at about 11 a.m [0200 GMT] a FRETILIN rebel suddenly appeared and opened fire with his M-16 gun on a group of Indonesian soldiers who were working on a road project linking the town of Mananuto to Soibaba village, covering 60 kilometers.

The unarmed soldiers fled to safety. No casualties or injuries were reported.

In the early evening of the same day, 10 FRETILIN rebels caused terror again as it forced local people to hand over their identity cards at gun point. They then ran away into nearby jungle, but soldiers who chased them managed to catch three of them, two men and a woman.

As of Saturday the identities and motives of the three rebels who are being detained at Mananuto military station for questioning had not been ascertained.

Army Chief: Irian Jaya Rebels 'Losing Strength'

BK0208124993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Wismoyo Arismunandar, Army chief of staff, says the activities of GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] members in Irian Jaya over the last three years are no longer significant. This shows that they are losing strength.

In his written message today to mark the 41st anniversary of the Trikora Regional Military Command in Jayapura, the army chief of staff also noted growing public awareness of taking part in combating the GPK threat in Irian Jaya. The participation of the people in Irian Jaya in combating the GPK remnants also shows their increasing awareness of defending the country. This trend should be intensified in the future.

Laos

Paper Hails 'Success' of PNGC Delegation's Visit

BK0308120993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Aug 93

[PASASON 3 August article: "New sign of Lao-Cambodian friendly relations"]

[Text] The high-level delegation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC] headed by Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, cochairmen of the PNGC, paid an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, from 28 to 31 July. The success of the visit to Laos by the PNGC delegation constitutes a new sign of development of the traditions of friendship and good-neighborliness between the two countries and peoples. Moreover, it was also the first visit paid to a foreign country by the PNGC since it was established in March 1993, and Laos was given the honor of being the first foreign country to welcome a PNGC delegation.

During its stay in the LPDR, the high-level delegation of the PNGC paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan and visited several production establishments and historical and cultural areas in the cities of Vientiane and Luang Prabang. At the same time, the delegation also held talks with the LPDR Government delegation to exchange views on the international and regional situations and to consult with each other on future relations and cooperation in economic and cultural fields.

The visit to Laos by the high-level PNGC delegation clearly displays the spirit of profound friendship and brilliant solidarity firmly adhered to by the Lao and Cambodian peoples.

In part of his speech delivered at a banquet welcoming the high-level delegation, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon said: The visit by you, Prince Kromluong and Your Excellency Hun Sen and your enroutage to our country, will serve to further increase, develop, and strengthen the traditional fine relations between our two countries and peoples who have maintained initimate and affectionate ties since ancient times.

In his reply speech, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh said: Our delegation's official friendship visit to the LPDR is a fine contribution to and constitutes our strong aspirations for the strengthening and promotion of the tradition of friendship between the two peoples of Cambodia and Laos, thus making it more fruitful and forever blossoming.

The time-honored relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the Lao and Cambodian peoples will be further strengthened and expanded to a new level. The Lao-Cambodian joint communique stressed the

importance of development of the traditional relations of friendship and good neighborliness between the two countries on the basis of the principles of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; noninterference in each other's internal affairs; nonuse of force and coercion; peaceful settlement of all problems in relations between the two countries; cooperation; equality; and mutual interests. The two sides emphasized broadening cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and technical fields between the two countries.

The visit to the LPDR by the high-level PNGC delegation constitutes a good sign in the new period of development of the traditional relations of friendship and good-neighborliness between the two countries and the Lao and Cambodian peoples. We, the multiethnic Lao people, wholeheartedly hail the glorious success of the friendship visit to the LPDR by the high-level PNGC delegation. We firmly believe that this spirit of fine friendship will be continually developed and strengthened.

Heroin Traffickers Receive Five-Year Sentences

BK0408035793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] According to a regional news report, on 20 July the people's court of Oudomsai Province rendered verdicts concerning two suspects charged with heroin trafficking.

Following thorough and correct legal court procedures and trials and the confessions made by the suspects, the Oudomsai provincial people's court rendered verdicts on the criminal case in accordance with Article 135 dealing with trafficking and possessing narcotics.

The court sentenced Mr. Eun, 49-year-old resident of Ban Phong Keo Tai, and Mr. Thongneua, 42, resident of Ban Thong Di, Luang Namtha Province, each to five years in prison. The two suspects smuggled 1.5 kilograms of heroin from Luang Namtha Province to sell to Mr. Som in Dan Sai District, Loei Province, Thailand.

In addition to the sentences, the court also destroyed all the seized narcotics before a number of cadres and other people.

The authorities also seized a Honda motorcycle, U.S. $2,800 in cash, 16 gold necklaces weighing two baht each [one baht is equivalent to 15 grams], and 500,000 kips of Lao currency as state property and levied 207,190 kips in fines on the offenders.

Thailand

Prasong Denies UNTAC Allegation on KR Support

BK0408075193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri has denied the remark by an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] official about Thailand's support of the Khmer Rouge [KR]. He said UNTAC officials should understand that Thailand and the Khmer Rouge must work together because the latter is part of the SNC [Supreme National Council]. Therefore, UNTAC officials should check for their facts before making any remarks.

[Begin recording] [Prasong] We have contacts with the Khmer Rouge because it is a member of the SNC. UNTAC has spoken prematurely about Thai soldiers not coming to its assistance. I wish to say again that the incident occurred in Cambodia. Thai soldiers cannot cross the border to take action in another country's territory.

Regarding the incident involving 21 UNTAC officials, the fact is 20 of them were soldiers and one was a Cambodian interpreter. Thai soldiers rescued them. But they later went back to collect their articles. The incident occurred in Cambodia.

In this incident, I feel that the UNTAC official concerned spoke prematurely and he perhaps was not present at the site of the incident himself.

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the UNTAC statement, does this not damage Thailand's image in the eyes of the United Nations?

[Prasong] Our official has clarified this matter. There is coordination between UNTAC and Thai liaison officials. During the holidays, I instructed the Foreign Ministry to inform our ambassador so that he can clarify the matter in Cambodia as well. [end recording]

Government 'Disappointed' With Claim

BK0408113393 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said at 1500 today that the Thai Government rejects the allegation made by the spokesman of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC, who said Thailand had allowed the Khmer Rouge to use its territory for the attack on UNTAC checkpoint No. 2 and capture of UNTAC officials. The investigation into the incident conducted by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with the Army has revealed the fact that the Khmer Rouge attack took place in Phreah Vihear Province inside Cambodian territory, opposite Nam Yun District of Ubon Ratchathani Province. The Thai side talked to the Khmer

Rouge to secure the release of the UNTAC officials and then contacted UNTAC to pick up its officials in Ubon Ratchathani Province on 3 August.

The director general also said that the Thai Government wishes to reaffirm its policy of noninterference in Cambodia and nonsupport for any Cambodian faction. The Foreign Ministry is extremely disappointed with the irresponsible and groundless allegation made by UNTAC. This is not the first time that UNTAC has made such an allegation against Thailand. Earlier, UNTAC accused Thailand of giving support to the Khmer Rouge during the seizure of Phreah Vihear Temple. The fact is that Thailand was not involved whatsoever in the said Khmer Rouge action.

PRC's Qiao Shi, Delegation Begin Visit 3 Aug

Qiao Shi Speaks on Arrival

BK0408074593 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 3 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Qiao Shi, chairman of the standing committee of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], and his 55-member entourage, ended their two-day visit to the southern province of Phuket and arrived at the Air Force Airport at 1000 on 3 August for a visit to Bangkok. The delegation was warmly welcomed at the airport by Parliament President Marut Bunnak, Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan, First Deputy House Speaker Wanmuhamatno Matha, Second Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison, National Assembly officials, Chinese Embassy officials, mass media representatives, and leaders of local Thai-Chinese associations such as Xie Huiru, Zheng Minru, Hu Yulin, Li Jinghe, Liu Rongfan, Deng Wenfu, Lu Enda, Xu Chaozhen, Deng Shudong.

NPC Standing Committee Chiarman Qiao Shi delivered the following speech upon his arrival at the Air Force Airport:

At the Invitation of Your Excellency Parliament President Marut Bunnak, I am pleased to be paying this official visit to the good neighbor of Thailand. I take this opportunity to convey China's cordial greetings and best wishes.

China and Thailand are neighbors. The peoples have a long-standing traditional friendship. With our joint efforts, friendly cooperation has developed fully and smoothly in all fields in recent years. There have also been frequent contacts and wide-ranging cooperation between the national assemblies of the two countries. I am pleased with this.

This is my first visit to Thailand, done on behalf of the NPC standing committee chairman. The main aim of the visit is to become acquainted with leaders of the Thai National Assembly and government and friends in all circles, to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship, and to promote the continuous development of the friendly cooperation in all fields.

I wish the Kingdom of Thailand prosperity and the people happiness.

Received by Parliament President

BK0408074793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Parliament President Marut Bunnak spoke with newsmen after receiving Qiao Shi, chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress, who is on an official visit to Thailand. Marut said they discussed economic and trade relations between Thailand and China. They felt that ties should be further expanded and that Asian countries should not only place emphasis on ties with Western countries.

Marut said China has extended assistance and cooperation to Thailand in many areas. For example, it bought 200,000 tons of rice from Thailand out of friendship. China also supports the construction of the highway from Yunnan Province to the Thai border in Chiang Rai Province. This highway will benefit trade and contact between the two countries. He said China believes that the various areas of bilateral cooperation are the result of their brotherly relations. [passage omitted]

Official Defends Opening of PLO Office

BK0408021193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] The setting up of an office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Thailand would promote better understanding and relations between Bangkok and Muslim countries according to the House Foreign Affairs Committee spokesman. Sutham Saengprathum said Bangkok's approval for the PLO to establish an office here is "in line with" the changing international situation as many countries have developed relations with the Palestinian group headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

He downplayed speculation that the PLO's office in Bangkok would promote terrorism in Thailand. "Terrorism would decrease if bilateral relations are conducted in an open way," said the Palang Dharma MP, who is in the same party as Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong met Mr 'Arafat at Don Muang airport on Sunday during his brief stopover before heading for Egypt. Mr 'Arafat told a press conference that the PLO "hopes the relationship with Thailand would be strengthened for the sake of our people and for the sake of world peace."

The Anan administration agreed in principle in 1991 that an PLO office could be set up in Bangkok, but nothing has happened since then. Sqn Ldr Prasong agreed with the setting up of the PLO office on Thai soil and the ministry is now working out whether its status will be an office or an embassy.

No 'Drastic Actions' Planned Against Burma

BK0408065293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri says Thailand will not take drastic actions against Myanmar [Burma], whose troops have harmed Thai people at the border. He says the Thai Government reaffirms its intention to maintain peace and good relations with neighboring countries. If there are problems, diplomatic moves will be made to bring both sides to negotiations to solve them. Minister Prasong says border problems occur not only along Thai-Myanmar border, but also on other fronts. They are localized and authorities at local level of both sides agree to solve them through negotiations. He says he will travel to Myanmar in early September this year to discuss bilateral relations and to solve border and economic problems. He will also ask Myanmar to join ASEAN as member.

Canberra To 'Clamp Down Hard' on Child Sex Tours

BK0408074893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Australia's justice minister, Duncan Kerr, says Australian involvement in attempting to curb child prostitution in Asia will not involve sex tours which include adults. Mr. Kerr, on a visit to four Southeast Asian nations, said in Bangkok that Australia would clamp down hard on any Australian it can prosecute for having sex with children while on visits to Asia. He said the exploitation of children by foreigners on Asian sex tours was the ugly side of the sex industry which Australia could help to do something about. But, Mr. Kerr said Australia could not target adult sex tours when adult prostitution was not always against the law in Australia.

Islamic Leader Condemns Arab Aid to 'Terrorists'

BK0408052793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] Pattani— Provincial Islamic leader Hayi Wahap Abdul Wahap yesterday asked for some Arab countries to stop providing financial support for a separatist movement struggling for an autonomous Islamic state in southern Thailand. He said he could not understand why support was continuing for the "terrorists". He did not name the countries. "If they (some Arab countries) are sincere with their Muslim brothers here, they should give their financial support to legitimate Muslim groups so that the money could be used for the wellbeing of local Muslims," said the Hayi.

He strongly condemned the perpetrators who torched 33 schools and one tambon council office in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces on Sunday. Such a criminal act is against the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. "All Muslim brothers feel deep regret at what has happened. It is our children who suffer from this barbaric act," he said. Setting fire to a school is to deny children access to learning, he said, adding that if the perpetrators were Muslims their souls would go to hell.

However, he conceded that he still had no idea who was responsible for the arson attacks. He said Muslims were equally treated in this country with Buddhists and followers of other religions—"especially by His Majesty the King who helps bring prosperlty and improvements for local Muslims in southern provinces."

He pleaded with separatist bandits to stop their armed struggle and to use parliamentary and nonviolent means to achieve their political goals. "What could local Muslims gain from a terrorist act of torching a school where Muslim children attend class?" he asked. The Hayi also dismissed the contention that the arson attacks might stem from a conflict between Deputy Interior Minister Den Tomina and opponents of the Islamic Law amendments, saying the attacks and conflict of opinions over the bill are irrelevant.

"How could one turn personal conflict over the bill into a political issue and resort to violence?" he asked. He said he was also against the bill. The bill, sponsored by the New Aspiration Party, seeks to curtail the power of the Muslim spiritual leader, the Chula Ratchamontri, and to limit his retirement age at 70. It also calls for the election every six years of provincial-level Islamic committee members.

Vietnam

Remains of 16 MIA's Returned to U.S. MIA Office

BK0308144493 Hanoi VNA in English 1359 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3rd—The Vietnam MIA Office today returned to the US MIA Office here remains of 16 American servicemen and personal effects relating to 14 cases involving 19 American servicemen reported missing in action in Vietnam war.

The remains were collected during the recent 24th joint Vietnam-US search, and examined by experts of the two countries. The remains of five MIA's were found by the joint-search teams and the rest by the local people.

Since March, 1974, Vietnam has returned remains of 560 American MIA's to the US side. Of the 58 sets of remains returned in 1993, 31 were found by joint search teams and the rest by local people.

The representative of the US MIA Office highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government and people's cooperation and humanitarian policy.

Foreign Minister Predicts 'Bright' Future With ASEAN

BK0308160193 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—'I believe that the prospect of the Vietnam-ASEAN cooperative relations is bright, and these relations will rapidly developed [as received] in the coming time', said Foreign Minister [F.M.] Nguyen Manh Cam in an exclusive interview to the national daily NHAN DAN today.

The interview was occasioned by the participation of Vietnam, represented by F.M. Cam, as observer at the 26th ASEAN ministerial meeting held in Singapore recently.

Asked about the prospect of the Vietnam-ASEAN cooperation, the Vietnamese minister pointed out: 'This is the first time that Vietnam attended the meeting as observer. The Vietnamese delegation also had a separate meeting with the ASEAN foreign ministers to exchange views on the Vietnam-ASEAN relations and the regional issues of common concern. The ASEAN foreign ministers highly valued the quick, effective expansion of cooperation between Vietnam and each ASEAN country since Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's official visits to ASEAN countries, especially since Vietnam joined the Bali agreement and became observer of the ASEAN. The ASEAN foreign ministers held that the Vietnam-ASEAN ties really reached to a new stage of development. They welcomed Vietnam's readiness to take part in a number of cooperation programmes of the ASEAN in the fields of science, technology, environment, culture, information, education, training, public health and tourism. The ASEAN foreign ministers invited Vietnam to take part in the [word indistinct] forum on regional security at the next ASEAN ministerial meeting. The ASEAN countries also expressed their hope that Vietnam and Laos soon become full member of the ASEAN organization, and then Cambodia and Myanmar [Burma] will come next in order to quickly build a full community of South East Asia'.

'The participants held that the Vietnam-ASEAN relations would be a factor guaranteeing peace, security and cooperation in the region', F.M. Cam added .

Malaysian Navy Cruisers Call at Saigon Port

BK0208062993 Hanoi VNA in English 0609 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 2—Two cruisers of Malaysia's royal navy called at Saigon port on Friday beginning their three-day visit to Ho Chi Minh City.

The two ships which cast anchor at Nha Rong Landing Wharf are KD Mahawangsa and KD Musitari. The officers and their crew members were received by Vice-Mayor Nguyen Van Huan at the townhall in the afternoon of the same day.

On behalf of the visiting Malaysian naval men, Captain Z.B. Zaman told the Ho Chi Minh City vice-mayor that they were glad to have a chance to visit this beautiful city. He said he hoped that with contacts and sports games arranged between his crew members and the local youth and Vietnamese naval men, the friendly relations between Malaysia and Vietnam would be further strengthened.

While in the city, the command of the ships paid a visit to the command of the seventh military zone and the naval command in the city.

Diplomatic Ties Set Up With United Arab Emirates

BK0108152393 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 1—Vietnamese Ambassador to Egypt Tran Tam Giap and Abdullah Mohamed al-Takawi, minister plenipotentiary and charge d'affaires a.i. [ad interim] in the United Arab Emirates, signed in Cairo on July 29 a communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries at ambassadorial level as from August 1.

Cooperation Program Signed With Egypt 2 Aug

BK0308145893 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—A programme of cultural scientific and educational cooperation between Egypt and Vietnam in the 1993-1995 period was signed here yesterday.

Signatories were Samy Abdel Latif [name as received], ambassador and vice assistant to the foreign minister of Egypt, and Nguyen Trung Kien, deputy minister of culture and information. Mr. Latif arrived here on July 31 as head of an Egyptian delegation to visit Vietnam at the invitation of the Ministry of Calture and Information.

While in Vietnam, the Egyptian guests were also received by Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien.

Nguyen Manh Cam Greets Iranian Foreign Minister

BK0308151593 Hanoi VNA in English 1400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam today sent a message of greetings to his Iranian counterpart Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Iran (August 4).

Nguyen Duc Binh Speaks at Cuban Embassy Function

BK3107100793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] In Hanoi on the evening of 30 July, the Cuban Embassy held a cordial get-together on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks. Attending were Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and many other comrades representing various organs, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi.

Addressing the get-together, Mrs. Tania Maceira Delgado, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to Vietnam, pointed out the historic significance of the attack on the Moncada Barracks to the Cuban revolution. She also asserted the determination of the party and people of Cuba, under the leadership of President Fidel Castro, to advance their country through the present difficult situation and continue holding the banner of socialism firmly in the Western hemisphere. The ambassador thanked the party, government, and people of Vietnam for always uniting with and supporting Cuba, especially in the face of the present situation.

In his speech, Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh highly appraised the significance of the attack on the Moncada Barracks and thanked the party, government, and fraternal people of Cuba for their assistance to the Vietnamese people in the struggle for national independence. He also affirmed the constant consolidation and development of the solidarity and friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and Cuba.

Nguyen Duc Binh Receives Departing Czech Charge

BK0208143193 Hanoi VNA in English 1353 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 2—Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here yesterday Jiri Husner, charge d'affaires A.I. [ad interim] of the Republic of Czech, on the occasion of the end of his term of office in Vietnam.

Mr. Jiri Husner expressed his pleasure at witnessing the achievements in the process of renovation in Vietnam, and active steps in the consolidation of the traditional friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Czech.

For his part, Nguyen Duc Binh highly appreciated the contributions of the Czech Embassy and Mr. Husner himself to promoting the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He expressed his belief that those relations would be further consolidated and developed in the interest of the people of the two countries.

Vo Tran Chi Meets Swiss Workers Party Secretary

BK3007053193 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by H.S.]

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 July Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, cordially received Comrade Anjuska Weil, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Switzerland, who is currently on a visit to Ho Chi Minh City. Also present at the reception were Comrade Le Quang Chanh, head of the city party committee's external relations section, and Vu Khac Bong, director of the Foreign Affairs Service.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi highly appraised the heartfelt assistance given by the Wokers Party of Switzerland to our people in the struggle for independence and in national construction. On behalf of the party organization and people of Ho Chi Minh City, Comrade Vo Tran Chi sincerely thanked the Workers Party of Switzerland for that assistance.

Comrade Anjuska Weil disclosed that she had matured through the struggle in support of Vietnam against the aggressors' forces. She also voiced the support of the Workers Party of Switzerland for the Vietnamese people, those who have endured sufferings under the yoke of the aggression of the imperialists. The visit is aimed at further strengthening friendship with the Vietnamese people and seeking additional experiences from the Communist Party and people of Vietnam in the process of renovating the country.

Journalists Attend Mass Media Seminar in Bangkok

BK0308075693 Hanoi VNA in English 0649 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 3—A delegation of Vietnamest journalists has attended a seminar on the cooperation and the development of mass media among the Indochinese countries, Myanmar [Burma], and Thailand recently held in Bangkok (Thailand).

While there, it was received by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, the chairman of the National Assembly, and other Thai senior officials.

The delegation also visited some press agencies in Bangkok and other localities.

Joint Circular Issued on Foreigners, AIDS

BK3107072493 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 31—The Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have issued a joint circular to guide the implementation of some

stipulations regarding foreigners stated in the government's decree of December 18, 1992 on HIV/AIDS prevention.

The circular stipulates that on entry into Vietnam all non-Vietnamese nationals shall have to declare on contagious diseases in accordance with entry procedures and quarantine regulations of Vietnam. Foreigners residing in Vietnam are encouraged to volunteer for HIV tests. Tests are obligatory for those who intend to donate blood, sperm, tissue or any organ of the body and those who are carriers of sexually transmitted diseases.

If a foreigner is detected with HIV/AIDS infection, the Vietnamese medical institutions shall handle the case in conformity with the Health Ministry's regulations concerning HIV/AIDS infection.

The circular took effect on May 17,1993 .

Buddhist Monk Asked To Stop 'Wrongdoings'

BK0408134893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] On the morning of 4 August 1993 at the office of the Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee, empowered by the government Religious Affairs Commission, Mr. Hoang Ngoc Tran, vice chairman of the Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee, gave a letter to Mr. Le Dinh Nhan, also known as Buddhist Monk Huyen Quang of the Hoi Phuoc Buddhist Temple in Quang Ngai Province. Mr. Hoang Ngoc Tran also made public the Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee's decision No. 1110 dated 3 August 1993 concerning illegal acts committed by Buddhist Monk Huyen Quang.

Under the Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee's decision, Mr. Huyen Quang must seriously comply with the following points:

—Stop assuming wrongfully the position of acting president of the Institute of Dhamma of the Vietnam United Buddhist Church.
—Stop illegally using the seal of the Institute of Dhamma and return it to the authoritative state agency concerned.
—Stop using the Hoi Phuoc Buddhist Temple, or any other Buddhist Church premises in Quang Ngai Province, as the office of the Institute of Dhamma in exile to carry out illegal activities.
—Stop all acts aimed at opposing the state and the Vietnam Buddhist Church, as well as at undermining unity among Buddhist believers.

Next, Mr. Hoang Ngoc Tran asked Mr. Huyen Quang to comply fully and seriously with the contents of the above letter and decision. He hoped that Mr. Huyen Quang would realize the truth and Buddhist teachings, ending at once his wrongdoings and sincerely mending his ways. He promised that the state would create every condition for Mr. Huyen Quang to have a sense of security while leading a religious life aimed at materializing the noble cause of serving the nation and Buddhism.

Government Directive Regulates Religious Activities

BK0208094993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] On 23 July the prime minister issued Directive No. 379 on religious activities. The directive states that governments at all levels and religious departments need to deal correctly with the following issues:

—Allow the restoration of damaged or degraded places of religious worship. Places of religious worship that were borrowed by government organs for other purposes should be reconsidered and returned to the religion or people in charge of those places.

—Allow the printing of religious books in conformity with the Publishing Law and create conditions for the religions to print their books in the country. If they want to import religious books from foreign countries, they must conform with government regulations on importation of cultural products. The checking of imported religious printing products needs to be done in a speedy and simple manner and in conformity with the law.

—Create favorable conditions for religions to train their missionaries at religious training centers approved by the government.

Vo Van Kiet Issues Decision on Credit Funds System

BK0408042393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently issued the Decision No. 390-TTG authorizing the implementation of Plan 1 of the People's Credit Fund Project.

In pursuant to the Plan 1, the system of people's credit funds will be established at three levels which are local, regional, and central credit funds. The People's Credit Fund is an economic cooperation organization formed by individuals and legal entities in the countryside who voluntarily contribute capital in the form of shares. The fund operates independently, aiming at mobilizing local capital and giving credit within the responsible locality. The fund's objective is to create mutual assistance in developing production activities, thus improving the living standard of the fund's members.

A Central Guiding Committee of the People's Credit Fund Project has been formed and conducted its first meeting. Thirteen provinces, five from the north and eight from the south, were selected to carry out the People's Credit Fund pilot projects.

Vo Tran Chi on Ho Chi Minh City Antipoverty Plan

BK3007142593 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 30—Ho Chi Minh City Party Secretary Vo Tran Chi said last Saturday that his city is trying to end starvation and greatly reduce poverty by 1995.

The comments were made at a conference on the municipal anti-starvation and poverty programme. Papers delivered showed that the city has reduced the number of very poor families by 24 percent, primarily through lending 11 billion dong (roughly 1.1 million US dollars) to 22,590 families.

It also provided jobs for 30,000 persons and vocational training for 5,000 others.

The municipal youth organisation has provided saplings, agricultural materials, and technical assistance for low income youths to develop their household economies.

New rice varieties have been sent to 86 pilot agricultural units and 73 young people have been trained as agricultural technicians.

Tan Binh is among the leading districts for this year. In the first six months it invested billions of dong in expanding production and generating more than 2,500 jobs especially in the area of export garment making.

Over the same period Tan Binh also licensed 17 private businesses with a total legal capital of 15 billion dong.

Ho Chi Minh Court Sentences Drug Traffickers

BK0208040893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Jul 93

[Text] On 30 July, the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court held a low-court trial of Tran Dinh Nhan, Nguyen Xuan Ban, and Nguyen The Hung on charges of trafficking in narcotics.

On 21 October 1992, Nhan and Ban in Hanoi put funds together to buy more than 2 kilograms of heroin for sale in Ho Chi Minh City with the help of Nguyen The Hung, who acted as a middle man. Nhan and Ban, however, were detected and arrested with evidence by the city public security service.

The Ho Chi Minh City People's Court sentenced Tran Dinh Nhan to death and Nguyen Xuan Ban to life imprisonment for drug trafficking. The two defendants were also subject to a fine of 165 million dong each. Nguyen The Hung escaped arrest and is being tracked down by public security men.

The quantity of heroin seized was burned in front of the city court immediately after the conclusion of the trial.

Hanoi Police Seize 16 Kg of Opium, Make Arrests

BK0208085193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Last week, the Hanoi Economic Police discovered 23 economic crimes, confiscating 100 million dong worth of goods, including 16 kg of opium. Dong Da Precinct police arrested Dao Van Luc of Do Luong District, Nghe An Province for selling opium in Nguyen Huu Luu's house. They seized 4 kg of opium, one K-54 pistol, eight rounds of ammunition, and a box of [word indistinct].

The Criminal Police Force arrested four muggers, 22 thieves, and 14 wanted criminals.

Phan Van Khai Attends Antismuggling Conference

BK0408072593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] In 2-3 August in Ho Chi Minh City, the Market Management Central Committee held a conference on market management from Quang Tri Province to other provinces of South Vietnam. The conference reviewed the implementation of Government Directive No. 15 and Decision No. 114 on fighting corruption and smuggling. Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai attended the conference.

The Market Management Central Committee's report says that in the first six months of this year, the market management forces in southern provinces have intensified their control work and discovered more than 71,500 cases of violations of market management regulations, including nearly 18,520 smuggling cases, 450 cases of production and trading of fake goods, and 52,000 cases of illegal trading. In dealing with these cases, different localities have collected fines and taxes of 44.361 billion dong.

Generally speaking, the market management teams at all levels have exerted considerable energy and have achieved some results in the battle against smuggling. These achievements are not enough, however, to make an important difference in this struggle. The current situation in regard to smuggling is still a very painful issue.

Speaking at the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai emphasized that in this effort, what is important is the intensification of direct and concrete leadership of party organizations and governments at all levels. From experience, we can now draw a useful lesson that where the strength of all the different forces are combined, the fight against corruption and smuggling in that area will yield higher results. That requires close guidance and instruction from party committees, practical programs of action with clearly defined work areas from local governments, and good coordination of state organs and law enforcement agencies.

The deputy prime minister instructed the sectors, localities, and market management teams at all levels to quickly reorganize and consolidate their forces for further acceleration of the fight against corruption and smuggling. They have to draw on past experience to effect change in the coming period, encourage confidence among the people, and restore order in the market.

Tay Ninh Inspection Committee Disciplines Cadres

BK0208143393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] The Tay Ninh Party Inspection Committee has reviewed the performances of 2,208 party members and 40 basic party organizations, especially leading cadres in key areas, in implementing the party statutes. As a result of this review, the Tay Ninh Party Inspection Committee took disciplinary action against 150 party members and a standing party committee of a village, dismissed 32 party members, removed 43 people from membership and expelled 23 others from the party. The committee also dismissed from office seven leading party members, including a member of the provincial party committee. These party members have violated the principles of party organizations and activities, damaged revolutionary ethics, and supported and been involved in smuggling.

New Economic Zone Resettlement Program Reviewed

BK0208132393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] In 1993, according to plan, the entire country will settle 65,000 families—with 130,000 laborers and 325,000 people—in new economic zones. In the last six months, 16,000 families—with more than 37,000 laborers and 80,000 people—have settled in new economic zones. Minh Hai and Kien Giang Provinces have achieved good results in this work.

Most of the people moving to new homelands have settled in quickly and started production. There is a problem that needs to be solved, however: that is, the free movement of people along riverine and coastal areas.

Compared to the outlined plan, the settlement of people in new economic zones has reached only a low level. All localities should quickly apply legal documents regarding this policy toward an early accomplishment of the set target, helping to provide work to laborers and alleviate starvation and poverty for peasants.

Afforestation, Allocation of Forests Successful

BK0408062793 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 4—Afforestation has become successful in parts of Vietnam in recent years with the policy of allocating sections of country to individual farmers.

Can Gio district in the Mekong River delta province of Long An is an example. The locality, where some parts were heavily damaged (?by storms), almost leaving no sings of vegetation, now boast 25,000 hectares of mangrove.

The result is unexpected with an average expansion of forest by 4,000 ha per year.

The allocation of forests to individuals for development provides a motive for hard work.

Tran Thanh Son, for instance, last year netted around 3 million dong (roughly 300 dollars) per month from a lots of 229.7 ha of forests he was charged with and 20 ha of shrimp-rearing marshes in the forests.

Forests in Can Gio now are providing Ho Chi Minh City with a better environment as they are gradually surrounding the city.

Dong Nai Province, also in the south, is another case. It has newly afforested 23,285 ha, expanding the total area to 135,300 ha that covers 28.27 per cent of the provincial territory. In 1992 alone the province put 2,500 ha under forests with a high survival rate.

Farmers may sign long-term contracts for their lots of forests directly with logging camp.

Forests also are providing suitable growing environments for other cash crops such as bananas, cashews and soya bean.

Dong Nai is expected to raise the proportion of forest to 35 percent of its territory this year.

Nong Duc Manh Attends Construction Firm Function

BK3007095193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Thang Long Bridge Construction General Corporation under the Ministry of Communications and Transportation held a solemn function on 28 July in Hanoi to mark its 20th founding anniversary and to receive the noble award of Labor Order First Class conferred by the State President. The chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, attended the function and spoke to the attendants.

It has been 20 years since the corporation was originally set up to build the Thang Long Bridge across the Red

River. It has constantly developed and become a main force in Vietnam's bridge construction industry.

Speaking at the ceremony, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh hailed the achievements scored by cadres and workers of Thang Long Bridge Construction General Corporation. The chairman stressed that in light of the party's rennovation spirit, our country is open with new opportunities to achieve the goals of a prosperous people, a steadfast state, and an advanced society. In the process of achieving these goals, our country needs contributions from well-established industries like the infrastructure construction industry, which will have to cope with fast-growing demands in construction. As one of the main establishments in the infrastructure construction sector, the Thang Long Bridge Construction General Corporation should advance further in the new situation to become a strong industrial corporation in the construction and transportation areas, not only for the domestic market but also for international and regional customers.

Visits Suburban Gia Lam

BK0408062593 Hanoi VNA in English 0555 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 4—Chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh yesterday paid a working visit to the suburban district of Gia Lam.

Speaking to the local officials and people Chairman Nong Duc Manh recommended that they concentrate on promoting the district's strong points in terms of transport and communication by making full use of the local railways, waterways and airport, applying new technology, and materials to the socioeconomic development of the district.

He said that in the coming time Gia Lam district would build a major export processing zone which would open a new prospect for the activities of commerce, tourism and services. Together with the change in the direction of urbanisation, Gia Lam must reorgainze its economic structure, tree-planting and animal breeding structure in order to meet the new requirement of the market, he continued.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh particularly visited Duong Xa village which has made remarkable achievements in agricultural and handicraft production, as well as in the field of culture and education.

Attends Ethnic Education Meeting

BK0208085593 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Text] Recently, the People's Committee of Lao Cai Province and the Hanoi Foreign Languages College held a meeting to report to leading comrades of central organs on the training program in foreign languages and informatics for ethnic minority students in Lao Cai Province. The meeting was attended by Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the party Political Bureau and National Assembly Chairman; Comrade Tran Thi Thanh Thanh; and many leaders of the Mountainous Areas and Ethnic Central Committee and the Settled Farming and Settled Life Central Committee.

Ethnic minority students from year 6 to year 12 will be trained in specialized programs, including the two main programs of foreign languages and informatics. They will be given scholarships and boarding in local schools.

Tran Duc Luong Meets With Lam Dong Leaders

BK3007155193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Acting on the prime minister's instruction, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong held a working session on 28 July with leaders of Lam Dong Province and Dalat City to review the general building plan for Dalat City from now to the year 2010.

Comrade Nguyen Duy Anh, people's committee chairman of Lam Dong Province, reported to the deputy prime minister the fundamental contents of the general plan. After listening to reports by the local authorities and representatives of ministries and sectors at the central level, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong asserted that Dalat City has great potential for development due to its favorable geographic location; good weather conditions; and natural scenic places, which symbolize our national characteristics.

To accomplish the building of the city in accordance with the general plan, the deputy prime minister urged Lam Dong people's committee and sectors concerned at the central level to formulate guiding plans to promptly implement the general plan and building projects of the city. Efforts must be made step by step to overcome the prevailing shortcomings and to modernize and improve the quality of the environment in the city. He also stated that tasks for the province in the 1991-1995 five-year period are to resolve the following three pressing issues: first, to make use of and preserve natural scenic places as well as old architectural relics of Dalat City to promote tourism, services, and trade. Second, to develop and upgrade the infrastructure of Dalat to improve the image of the city, especially its communications, electricity, and water works systems. Third, to strengthen the building management of the city to comply with the general plan.

After working with leaders of Lam Dong Province in reviewing and adopting the general building plan for Dalat City, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong visited and inspected a number of construction projets and toured various natural scenic places such as forests, lakes, and waterfalls in Dalat City.

Pham The Duyet at Hanoi Municipal TU Congress

BK3107093793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Summary] The 11th Congress of Delegates of the Hanoi municipal trade union opened at the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Cultural Palace this morning, 30 July.

"Nearly 400 delegates are attending, representing more than 300,000 workers and laborers in the capital. Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, and Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, member of the Party Central Committee and president of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, also attended and addressed the congress."

The delegates evaluated the activities of the municipal trade union in the past term of office and introduced measures to change its operational system in a way commensurate with the changing socioeconomic situation in the capital.

"In the recent past, by firmly embracing its objectives—employment, livelihood, democracy, and social justice—and by coordinating with various professional sectors, the Hanoi municipal trade union was able to solve the problem of employment for tens of thousands of workers who were laid off as a result of implementation of the market mechanism. Another 7,000 people were recruited to undertake new jobs. Unemployment among laborers dropped from 40 to 12 percent in 1992."

The 11th Hanoi trade union congress will discuss ways to change its operational and organizational systems to meet the aspirations of tens of thousands of workers and laborers in the capital.

Truong My Hoa Attends Meeting of Hai Hung Women

BK0408034993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Recently, the Hai Hung Province Women's Federation held a seminar on women's work in environmental sanitation. Comrade Truong My Hoa, president of the Vietnam Women's Federation [VWF]; UNICEF representatives; and many officials from provincial departments took part in the seminar.

With UNICEF assistance, the VWF Central Committee selected Hai Hung Province as a pilot location for surveying the environmental situation and people's awareness of it in 10 villages and subwards in Kim Mon and Nam Thanh Districts and Hai Duong Town. The survey shows that Hai Hung is a agricultural province with 40 percent of the children suffering from trachoma and more than 40 percent of the women suffering from gynecological diseases. Most of the local families have no tap water service. Body waste is used as fertilizer for agriculture production. The local women's federation established plans to motivate women to take part in sanitary projects, beginning with flush toilets to improve the health of women and children.

At the seminar, Comrade Truong My Hoa reminded that women must assume responsibility for their own and their children's health care with practical deeds which will benefit their famiies. It was also suggested that construction of sanitary flush toilets must be accompanied with the improvement of tap water service and financial assistance to poor families. Hai Hung is the first province to implement this project.

Publisher Issues VIETNAM TODAY in English

BK0408043193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] In order to meet the demand for information on foreign relations, and under the authorization of the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Gioi Publishing House has just issued the first edition of VIETNAM TODAY magazine in English. The magazine will be published monthly with the collaboration of many well-known Vietamese and foreign writers, scientists, and economists. The first issue carries many good articles, including an interview with Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, an essay on relations between Vietnam and its neighboring countries, and articles on economics, foreign investment, culture, history, tourism, and necessary information for businessmen and foreign tourists.

Aug TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN Reviewed

BK0408100593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Summary] Comrades and friends: You are now invited to listen to an introduction to the main contents of the August 1993 issue of TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN.

In commemorating the 48th anniversary of the August 1945 Revolution, the journal begins this issue with an editorial titled: "It Is Difficult To Wrest Back Administrative Control, but It Is Much More Difficult To Maintain It."

Continuing to seek a thorough understanding of the Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum Resolution, the journal publishes the following:

—An article by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the Party Central Committee and director of the Party Central Committee's Economic Department, titled: "Adopt a Uniform and Long-Term Multisectoral Economic Policy To Promote Agriculture To Benefit the Countryside in Accordance With Socialist Orientations" and

—An article by Hoang Ngoc Hoa, of the Ho Chi Minh Institute of National Politics, titled: "Some Prominent

Issues Relating to the Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum Resolution on Continued Socioeconomic Renovation and Development in the Countryside."

Found in the "Special Discussions" section are the following:

—An article by Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen titled: "Some Problems Concerning the Building of Defense Areas in the New Situation" and

—An article by Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Thoi Bung titled: "New Problems Which Arise From the Task of Summing Up the Experiences Drawn From Military Research."

The journal also devotes much space to carrying a number of articles dealing with the sea, the sea-based economy, sea defense and sea combat activities, and the experiences of the Vietnam People's Navy.

Appearing in the "National Military History" special section are an article titled "The Dai Viet [Great Viet] Navy" and another article titled: "Van Don, a Naval Base Under the Ly and Tran Dynasties."

In this issue, the journal publishes the following articles in the "Building a Regular Army: Opinions and Experiences" special section:

—An article by Major General Nguyen Van Triet titled: "Some Experiences in Building a Regular Army in the Air Defense Force."

—An article by Senior Lieutenant Colonel Doan Tinh Huong titled: "Firmly Maintain a Regular Army-Type Workstyle that the Tank and Armored Force Have Adopted to Meet Technical Requirements."

It is worth noting that the journal also devotes additional space to carrying an important commentary by Associate Professor Vu Chan.

Australia

Minister: Too Early To Speculate on Free Trade Area

BK0308080893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Australia's Trade Minister Peter Cook says it is too early to speculate about the formation of a Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area. In his speech in New Zealand, Senator Cook said a free trade area could be given serious consideration when there was much greater integration among the economies of the region. Speaking to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the Australian trade minister said the issue could also be considered when more progress was made towards the creation of a Asia-Pacific Economic Community. But Senator Cook said it was too early to speculate about a free trade area at this stage.

Canberra Stepping Up Business Ties With China

BK0408070793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Australia is stepping up its business ties with China. The federal trade minister, Peter Cook, will lead more than 100 business people in the largest Australian business delegation to yet visit China in September. The trade minister will also open the Australia-China business forum in Beijing, an event which officials say will be the largest and most important trade forum ever held between the two countries. Senator Cook's visit follows an invitation from Madam Wu Yi, China's minister for foreign trade and economic cooperation, and comes after a visit to Beijing by Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, in July.

Senator Cook will have extensive high level discussions with senior Chinese leaders, ministers, and leading provincial officials as well as launching a number of promotions to boost two-way trade. He'll push for increased economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the wool, iron, and steel industries. Senator Cook will also press for a reduction in barriers to Australia's exports including coal, horticultural products, and insurance services.

Following his visit to China, the trade minister will travel to Hong Kong and South Korea for meetings with senior government and business leaders.

Envoy: Russia To Seek 'Prominent' Security Role

BK3007100893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Canberra, July 30 (AFP)—Russia is likely to seek a prominent role in formulating a new Asia-Pacific security cooperation regime, a senior Russian diplomat said here Friday. Speaking at a conference on economic and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Federation consul-general Vladimir Kulagin said regional opposition to Russia's involvement would only play into the hands of its defence hard-liners.

Kulagin's comments came as Rodolfo Severino Philippine undersecretary of foreign affairs, announced in Manila Friday that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue and consultative partners, including China, Russia and the United States, had agreed on the need for a regional security dialogue. A consensus on the issue was reached during the recent ASEAN foreign ministers meet in Singapore, Severino said, adding that they were considering an "expanded forum," including China, Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea, when foreign ministers from ASEAN and the group's dialogue partners meet in Bangkok next year.

ASEAN is a non-military grouping that includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand as well as the Philippines.

Kulagin said here that Russia extended into the Asia-Pacific region geographically, and careful work was being done to ensure it became an acceptable and constructive partner in the economic and security processes of the region.

"This aspiration is based on concerns that without active efforts for the creation of the regional security system, the Asia-Pacific may one day find itself confronted with problems which would be very difficult to cope with, compared with what could be done today to prevent them," he said.

"It is desirable that the countries of the region realise that their attitude towards Russia considerably influences the process of formulation of its policies in respect to this region. Any attempts to exclude Russia even partially from the process taking place in the region will be playing into the hands of those circles in Russia who are inclined to search for ways to ensure security of the country's eastern borders in the old structures of the balance of power."

Russia's desire for an active role in regional security presents a certain irony as, throughout the Cold War, all security arrangements were fundamentally predicated on a hostile Soviet Union and its allies.

Kulagin said Soviet support of pro-communist regimes in the region during the Cold War had increased its isolation, largely eliminating it from the economic development in the region. But the Asia-Pacific was now of much greater interest to Russia than in the past, he said.

Canberra 'Seriously' Concerned About S. African Violence

BK0408063593 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Australia says it is seriously concerned about recent violence in South Africa. Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, said many incidents were carefully

planned acts of ferocity aimed at defenseless people. He said the killings were intended to spread fear and despondency and to undermine the multiparty constitutional talks in Johannesburg.

In a statement issued in Canberra, Australia's foreign minister noted that at least 90 people were killed in Johannesburg at the end of last week. There had been 600 politically motivated deaths in July. Senator Evans said it was imperative to South Africa's parties to settle their differences and reach an early agreement. He said it would be a tragedy for South Africa if the momentum in negotiations was lost.

Ships Leave Sydney for Asian Deployment

BK0408090793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Three Australian Navy ships are leaving Sydney today for a five-month deployment in Asia. The guided-missile destroyer Perth, the guided-missile frigate Canberra, and the destroyer escort Swan will take part in a round of exercises with regional navies. Supports for the ships will be provided initially by the replenishment ships Success and Westralia. During their deployment the ships will visit Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, and Korea.

Retail Trade Volume Increase More Than Expected

BK0308085693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Economists may be revising outputs, their growth estimates, following a larger-than-expected rise in consumer spending in Australia. Belinda Trompe reports that figures just released show retail trade volumes rose 1.3 percent over the June quarter.

[Begin Trompe recording] Economists had been tipping a rise in sales volume of less than this amount in line with evidence of weak consumer demand. But the figure has been pushed up by growth in retail turnover with the trend estimate now growing at half a percent for each of the last four months. Department stores showed strong growth for the quarter while grocers showed moderate growth. With consumer spending a significant component of quarterly GDP estimates some analysts are now hoping that Friday's [30 July] GDP figure may be slightly stronger than the forecast of half a percent. [end recording]

Cook Islands

Agreement Signed With New Zealand on Defense Exercises

BK0408071893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] New Zealand and the Cook Islands have signed an agreement covering the administration of defense exercises in the Cook Islands. It requires New Zealand to respect Cook Islands' law and seek approval to hold exercises in that country. The agreement also covers the entry and departure from the Cook Islands of military personnel, carriage of arms, and the exercise of criminal jurisdiction over New Zealand forces.

Cook Islands' prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Henry, and Associate Minister for Pacific Island affairs Roger McClay signed the agreement in Rarotonga.

Papua New Guinea

Talks Begin on Bougainville-Wide Peace Conference

BK0208092093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] Leaders from Papua New Guinea [PNG]-controlled areas of Bougainville and representatives of the self-styled Bougainville Interim Government have met for their first peace talks in three years. The meeting took place in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara.

The talks were a first step towards establishing a planning committee for a Bougainville-wide peace conference. A joint communique issued by the seven delegates encouraged all Bougainvillians under arms to cease their aggressive actions against each other. It also asked PNG to assist the North Solomons Peace Negotiating Committee, a body set up by an historic meeting of chiefs in PNG-controlled areas, to organize the planned Bougainville conference. The communique recognizes the negotiating committee as the body responsible for coordinating efforts towards a peaceful solution on Bougainville.

Vanuatu

Australian Judge Appointed to Senior Court Position

BK0208070393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] An Australian judge has been appointed as a judge and senior registrar of the Vanuatu supreme court. Judge (Rowen) Downing was sworn in at a ceremony on Port Villa attended by President Fred Timakata and Chief Justice (Charles Jodan Demacott). Judge Downing, who was previously a barrister at the Victorian Supreme Court in Melbourne, is to serve for two years in Vanuatu under a grant provided by the Australian International Assistance Bureau.

Meanwhile, President Timakata has granted release or reduction in sentences for 57 of the approximately 80 prisoners serving time in Vanuatu's four jails.